

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL RESULTS
2010 - 2019

Compiled by Doug.Butcher

The saga continues further

please follow my research into the 2010's.

Full Internationals shown as **BOLD**

2010						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
6-Jan	Kuwait City	Kuwait	Australia	2-2		Asian Cup, Qualifying Round
3-Mar	Brisbane	Australia	Indonesia	1-0		Asian Cup, Qualifying Round
24-May	Melbourne	Australia	New Zealand	2-1		
1-Jun	Roodepoort, South Africa	Denmark	Australia	0-1		
5-Jun	Roodepoort, South Africa	U.S.A.	Australia	3-1		
13-Jun	Durban, South Africa	Germany	Australia	4-0		World Cup Finals, 1st. round
19-Jun	Rustenburg, South Africa	Ghana	Australia	1-1		World Cup Finals, 1st. round
23-Jun	Nelspruit, South Africa	Serbia	Australia	1-2		World Cup Finals, 1st. round
11-Aug	Ljubljana	Slovenia	Australia	2-0		
3-Sep	St.Gallen	Switzerland	Australia	0-0		
7-Sep	Krakow	Poland	Australia	1-2		
9-Oct	Sydney	Australia	Paraguay	1-0		
17-Nov	Cairo	Egypt	Australia	3-0		

2011						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
5-Jan	Al Ain	United Arab Emirates	Australia	0-0		
10-Jan	Doha, Qatar	India	Australia	0-4		Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round
14-Jan	Doha, Qatar	Korea Republic (South Korea)	Australia	1-1		Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round
18-Jan	Doha, Qatar	Bahrain	Australia	0-1		Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round
22-Jan	Doha, Qatar	Iraq	Australia	0-1		Asian Cup Finals, Quarter Final
25-Jan	Doha, Qatar	Uzbekistan	Australia	0-6		Asian Cup Finals, Semi-Final
29-Jan	Doha, Qatar	Japan	Australia	1-0		Asian Cup Finals, Final
29-Mar	Mönchengladbach	Germany	Australia	1-2		
5-Jun	Adelaide	Australia	New Zealand	3-0		
7-Jun	Melbourne	Australia	Serbia	0-0		
10-Aug	Cardiff	Wales	Australia	1-2		
2-Sep	Brisbane	Australia	Thailand	2-1		World Cup 3rd.Qualifying round - Asian zone
6-Sep	Dammam	Saudi Arabia	Australia	1-3		World Cup 3rd.Qualifying round - Asian zone
7-Oct	Canberra	Australia	Malaysia	5-0		
11-Oct	Sydney	Australia	Oman	3-0		World Cup 3rd.Qualifying round - Asian zone
11-Nov	Muscat	Oman	Australia	1-0		World Cup 3rd.Qualifying round - Asian zone
15-Nov	Bangkok	Thailand	Australia	0-1		World Cup 3rd.Qualifying round - Asian zone

2012						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
29-Feb	Melbourne	Australia	Saudi Arabia	4-2		World Cup 3rd.Qualifying round - Asian zone
2-Jun	Copenhagen	Denmark	Australia	2-0		
8-Jun	Muscat	Oman	Australia	0-0		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
12-Jun	Brisbane	Australia	Japan	1-1		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
15-Aug	Edinburgh	Scotland	Australia	3-1		
6-Sep	Saida	Lebanon	Australia	0-3		
11-Sep	Amman	Jordan	Australia	2-1		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
16-Oct	Doha, Qatar	Iraq	Australia	1-2		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
14-Nov	Hwaseong	Korea Republic (South Korea)	Australia	1-2		
3-Dec	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Australia	0-1		E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2
5-Dec	Hong Kong	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)	Australia	1-1		E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2
7-Dec	Hong Kong	Guam	Australia	0-9		E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2
9-Dec	Hong Kong	Chinese Taipei	Australia	0-8		E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2

2013						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
6-Feb	Málaga, Spain	Romania	Australia	3-2		
26-Mar	Sydney	Australia	Oman	2-2		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
4-Jun	Saitama	Japan	Australia	1-1		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
11-Jun	Melbourne	Australia	Jordan	4-0		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
18-Jun	Sydney	Australia	Iraq	1-0		World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone
20-Jul	Seoul	Korea Republic (South Korea)	Australia	0-0		E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Finals
25-Jul	Hwaseong, Korea Republic	Japan	Australia	3-2		E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Finals
28-Jul	Seoul, Korea Republic	People's Republic of China	Australia	4-3		E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Finals
7-Sep	Brasilia, Brazil	Brazil	Australia	6-0		
11-Oct	Paris	France	Australia	6-0		
15-Oct	London, England	Canada	Australia	0-3		
19-Nov	Sydney	Australia	Costa Rica	1-0		

2014						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
5-Mar	London, England	Ecuador	Australia	4-3		
26-May	Sydney	Australia	South Africa	1-1		
2-Jun	Vitoria, Brazil	Paraná Clube	Australia	0-2		
6-Jun	Salvador, Brazil	Croatia	Australia	1-0		
13-Jun	Cuiaba, Brazil	Chile	Australia	3-1		World Cup Finals, 1st. round
18-Jun	Porto Alegre, Brazil	Netherlands	Australia	3-2		World Cup Finals, 1st. round
23-Jun	Curitiba, Brazil	Spain	Australia	3-0		World Cup Finals, 1st. round
4-Sep	Liège	Belgium	Australia	2-0		
8-Sep	London, England	Saudi Arabia	Australia	2-3		
10-Oct	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	Australia	0-0		
14-Oct	Doha	Qatar	Australia	1-0		
18-Nov	Osaka, Japan	Japan	Australia	2-1		

2015						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
9-Jan	Melbourne	Australia	Kuwait	4-1		Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round
13-Jan	Sydney	Australia	Oman	4-0		Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round
17-Jan	Brisbane	Australia	Korea Republic	0-1		Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round
22-Jan	Brisbane	Australia	People's Republic of China	2-0		Asian Cup Finals, Quarter Final
27-Jan	Newcastle	Australia	United Arab Emirates	2-0		Asian Cup Finals, Semi-Final
31-Jan	Sydney	Australia	Korea Republic	2-1		Asian Cup Finals, Final
25-Mar	Kaiserslautern	Germany	Australia	2-2		
30-Mar	Skopje	FYR Macedonia	Australia	0-0		
16-Jun	Bishkek	Kyrgyzstan	Australia	1-2		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2
3-Sep	Perth	Australia	Bangladesh	5-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2
8-Oct	Amman	Jordan	Australia	2-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2
12-Nov	Canberra	Australia	Kyrgyzstan	3-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2
17-Nov	Dhaka	Bangladesh	Australia	0-4		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2

2016						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
24-Mar	Adelaide	Australia	Tajikistan	7-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2
29-Mar	Sydney	Australia	Jordan	5-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2
27-May	Sunderland	England	Australia	2-1		
4-Jun	Sydney	Australia	Greece	1-0		
7-Jun	Melbourne	Australia	Greece	1-2		
1-Sep	Perth	Australia	Iraq	2-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
6-Sep	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	Australia	0-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
6-Oct	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	Australia	2-2		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
11-Oct	Melbourne	Australia	Japan	1-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
15-Nov	Bangkok	Thailand	Australia	2-2		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B

2017						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
23-Mar	Tehran, Iran	Iraq	Australia	1-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
28-Mar	Sydney	Australia	United Arab Emirates	2-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
8-Jun	Adelaide	Australia	Saudi Arabia	3-2		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
13-Jun	Melbourne	Australia	Brazil	0-4		
19-Jun	Sochi, Russia	Germany	Australia	3-2		Confederations Cup, 1st.Round, Group B
22-Jun	St. Petersburg, Russia	Cameroon	Australia	1-1		Confederations Cup, 1st.Round, Group B
25-Jun	Moscow, Russia	Chile	Australia	1-1		Confederations Cup, 1st.Round, Group B
31-Aug	Saitama	Japan	Australia	2-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
5-Sep	Melbourne	Australia	Thailand	2-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B
5-Oct	Melaka, Malaysia	Syria	Australia	1-1		World Cup Qualifying, Asian Play-off, 1st. Leg
10-Oct	Sydney	Australia	Syria	2-1		World Cup Qualifying, Asian Play-off, 2nd. Leg
10-Nov	San Pedro Sula	Honduras	Australia	0-0		World Cup Qualifying, Inter-continental Play-off, 1st. Leg
15-Nov	Sydney	Australia	Honduras	3-1		World Cup Qualifying, Inter-continental Play-off, 2nd. Leg

2018						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
23-Mar	Oslo	Norway	Australia	4-1		
27-Mar	London, England	Colombia	Australia	0-0		
1-Jun	Sankt Pölten, Austria	Czech Republic	Australia	0-4		
16-Jun	Kazan, Russia	France	Australia	2-1		World Cup Finals, Group Stage
21-Jun	Samara, Russia	Denmark	Australia	1-1		World Cup Finals, Group Stage
26-Jun	Sochi, Russia	Peru	Australia	2-0		World Cup Finals, Group Stage
15-Oct	Kuwait City	Kuwait	Australia	0-4		
17-Nov	Brisbane	Australia	Korea Republic	1-1		
20-Nov	Kuwait City	Lebanon	Australia	0-3		
30-Dec	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Oman	Australia	0-5		

2019						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
6-Jan	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates	Jordan	Australia	1-0		AFC Asian Cup Finals, Group Stage, Group B
11-Jan	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Palestine	Australia	0-3		AFC Asian Cup Finals, Group Stage, Group B
15-Jan	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates	Syria	Australia	2-3		AFC Asian Cup Finals, Group Stage, Group B
21-Jan	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates	Uzbekistan	Australia	0-0	Australia won 4-2 penalties	AFC Asian Cup Finals, Round of 16
25-Jan	Al Ain	United Arab Emirates	Australia	1-0		AFC Asian Cup Finals, Quarter final
7-Jun	Busan	Korea Republic	Australia	1-0		
10-Sep	Kuwait City	Kuwait	Australia	0-3		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B
10-Oct	Canberra	Australia	Nepal	5-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B
15-Oct	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	Chinese Taipei	Australia	1-7		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B
14-Nov	Amman	Jordan	Australia	0-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B

2010

Asian Cup, Qualifying Round													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
6th January 2010, 17.30			International Jaber-Al Ahmad Stadium, Kuwait City, Kuwait			Cool and Breezy			16C		20000		
Kuwait..2 v. Australia..2													
half time, Kuwait..2 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Nawaf Khaled Al-Khaldi					82	GK	Eugen Galekovic				
2	DF	Yaqoub Al-Taher Abdullah					3	DF	Craig Moore				
4	DF	Hussain Fadel Abdullah Ali Maatouq					72	DF	Dean Heffernan	5			
13	DF	Mesaed Neda Al-Enazi					19	MF	Nicholas "Nick" Carle				89
43	DF	Fahad Awadh Shaheen					21	MF	Mile Sterjovski				60
8	MF	Saleh Sheik Al-Hendi					28	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
18	MF	Jarah Mohammed Al-Ateeqi				24	61	MF	Simon Colosimo				
27	MF	Talal Ahmed Al-Amer					101	MF	Dario Vidosic				
54	MF	Yousef Naser Al-Sulaiman	44			72	118	MF	Matthew Kemp				
17	FW	Bader Ahmed Al-Mutwa					8	FW	Luke Wilkshire	3			
48	FW	Hamad Aman Ali		24		78	32	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				90+2
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Shehab Ahmed Hussain Kankoune					24	MF	Jacob Burns				
3	MF	Mohamed Abdel Rahim Abdel Karim Jarragh				72	25	FW	Bruce Djite				90+2
6	MF	Mohammad Rashid Sanad Al-Fadhli					41	MF	Matthew McKay				
9	FW	Ahmad Saad Ajab Al-Azmy					45	FW	Nikita Rukavyttsy				60
16	FW	Hamad Naif Al-Enezi	40			24	86	MF	Matthew Thompson				89
50	MF	Fahad Saleh Al-Enezi				78	88	GK	Daniel Vukovic				
51	DF	Ahmad Al-Eidan					117	MF	Shane Lowry				
Team Coach		Mohammad Hajeyah					Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek				
Team Manager		Osama Abdullah					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Irmatov Ravshan (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Rasulov Abdukhmidullo (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Ilyasov Rafael (Uzbekistan)											

Some sorces have No.14 - Talal Naif Al-Enezi, in the starting line-up in place of Mesaed Neda Al-Enazi.

Bader Ahmed Al-Mutwa is also shown as Bader Al-Motawaa. Jarah Al-Ateeqi is also shown as Jarah Al Ataigi. Yousef Naser Al-Sulaiman is also shown as Yousuf Nasser.

Ahmad Saad Ajab Al-Azmy is also shown as Ahmad Alzemi and Ahmad Al-Azemi. Shehab Ahmed Hussain Kankoune is also shown as Shebab Kankone.

match report from FFA (Football Federation Australia)

Australia has taken another step towards qualification for the 2011 Asian Cup, despite squandering a two-goal lead in a 2-2 draw with Kuwait in Kuwait City.

The result means Australia needs a draw or better in its match against Indonesia in March in Brisbane to book its place at next year's tournament in Qatar, with Kuwait on top of the group with eight points, level with Australia and one ahead of Oman.

Australia had led 2-0 within five minutes after capitalising on some lax defence from the home side on two occasions. Luke Wilkshire latched on to a rebounding ball three minutes in for his second goal in as many games while Dean Heffernan then scored his first goal for the Qantas Socceroos when Kuwait failed to deal with a free kick, allowing the Central Coast Mariner to slot from close range.

But Kuwait showed the same character it displayed in the 1-0 win over Australia in Canberra ten months ago to level by half-time. On 39 minutes, Hamad Al Enezi finished well after a defensive mistake, while five minutes later a sublime pass from the influential Bader Al Mutwa set up Younes Nasser for the equaliser.

Kuwait had the better chances of the second half, and Eugene Galekovic was called upon to make a save off the busy Al Enezi late on, but Australia held on and has its Asian Cup destiny in its own hands heading into the March 3 clash against Indonesia, which is out of contention.

It was a bizarre start to the match, with Australia immediately getting on the front foot from set pieces. A Heffernan throw-in found his old Central Coast team-mate Mile Jedinak in the box and he headed back towards Wilkshire, who had no trouble finding the net with his left foot.

The home side barely had time to draw breath when Nicky Carle took a free kick from the right. It floated in, found Heffernan and Archie Thompson unmarked, and Heffernan pulled the trigger making it 2-0 inside five minutes.

Thompson looked the man most likely to extend the lead for Australia in the first half and he shot wide on 21 minutes, while Dario Vidosic was making some strong progress in attack as well. But an early substitution which saw Al Enezi came on, changed the nature of the game. With two men up front, Kuwait looked much more potent and Yousuf should have shot when he passed on 35 minutes. The attacking pressure finally cracked the Australian defence soon after when Simon Colosimo made an error allowing Al Enezi in on goal. He stopped and steered his shot between Craig Moore's legs and into the far Al Mutwa, the most impressive of the home side's players, then showed his excellent passing skills to set up the second. Given too much space he found an angle to slide a pass to Yousuf on the left. The striker did the rest and teams headed to half-time at 2-2.

Al Mutwa was again busy for the first fifteen minutes of the second half, setting up Saleh Al Hendi, who could only fire over. Al Enazi then went within inches of giving his side the lead when he slid a shot past Galekovic but just wide of the post.

That proved a wake-up call for Australia, which changed its defensive approach and began to get control of the midfield. Substitute Nikita Rukavystya came closest to scoring for Australia, forcing a save from a tight angle on 70 minutes.

Galekovic saved his best effort for the night until the final ten minutes, diving well to meet another shot from Al Enazi in what was to prove the last serious threat for the game.

Note that Shane Lowry played for the Republic of Ireland U23 against Australia U23 in the Intercontinental Cup 2008

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
3rd March 2010, 19.00			Suncorp Stadium (Lang Park), Brisbane, Queensland				Cloudy and Rain			24C		20422	
Australia ..1 v. Indonesia.. 0													
half time, Australia..1 v. Indonesia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
82	GK	Eugen Galekovic					1	GK	Markus Rihihina				
42	DF	Mark Milligan	42				6	DF	Charis Yulianto				
60	DF	Shannon Cole				72	30	DF	Nova Arianto				
66	DF	Scott Jamieson					37	DF	Maman Abdurahman				
5	MF	Jason Culina (c)					11	MF	Ponaryo Astaman				
21	MF	Mile Sterjovski				46	14	MF	Ismed Sofyan				
24	MF	Jacob Burns				89	15	MF	Firman Utina				58
61	MF	Simon Colosimo					16	MF	Syamsul Bachri				59
121	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar		88			23	MF	Muhammad Ridwan				
8	FW	Luke Wilshire					13	FW	Budi Sudarsono				83
9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy					20	FW	Bambang Pamungkas				
SUBSTITUTES													
41	MF	Matthew McKay				46	9	FW	Talaohu Abdulmushafry				
68	DF	Andrew Durante					12	GK	Feri Sulu				
79	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain					18	MF	Hariono				59
86	MF	Matthew Thompson				72	19	MF	Arif Suyono				83
89	MF	David Williams				89	24	MF	Eka Ramdani		80		58
95	GK	Clint Bolton					25	DF	Isnan Ali				
127	FW	Daniel McBreen					50	MF	Marthen Worabai				
Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek					Team Coach		Benny Dolo				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager		Andi Tabusalla				
Referee		Ogiya Kenji (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yagi Akane (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Saadon Bin Mohamad (Malaysia)											

match report from the AFC (The Asian Football Confederation)

Australia qualified for the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 finals as Mark Milligan's first international goal secured a 1-0 win over Indonesia on Wednesday.

And Australia dominated from the first whistle with Simon Colosimo firing wide after just five minutes.

But despite Australia enjoying the majority of possession Socceroos' goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic was called into action after 11 minutes to save a tame effort from Budi Sudarsono as Indonesia made a rare foray into the Australia half.

Kennedy saw a header deflected into the grateful arms of Indonesia goalkeeper Markus Rihihina midway through the first half with debutants Oar and Cole playing their part in attack.

Rihihina then beat away a well-struck long range effort from Luke Wilshire before the custodian collected the rebound with Kennedy looking to pounce.

But four minutes before the break Australia finally found a breakthrough as Milligan bundled Wilshire's free-kick onto the crossbar before sweeping home at the second time of asking.

Rihihina denied Australia a second in the first-half stoppage time with a superb one-handed save from Colosimo's powerful header from another Wilshire delivery.

Kennedy wasted two chances at the start of the second half as Australia's dominance continued after the break, but Indonesia almost snatched an equaliser two minutes before the hour mark when Bambang Pamungkas capitalised on a mistake from Jacob Burns but could only fire at Galekovic following a charging run.

Australia captain Jason Culina stung the hands of Rihihina five minutes later and from the resulting counterattack Pamungkas wasted a good chance for the visitors.

Culina fired wide and Wilkshire shot straight at Rihihina as Australia looked to put the result beyond doubt in the closing stages before Matt McKay landed an effort on the roof of the Indonesia net. The pace of the game slowed but with Australia continuing to dominate possession the slender lead was never under threat.

Date & Time			Venue					Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
24th May 2010, 19.30			Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Victoria										55659	
Australia ..2 v. New Zealand.. 1														
half time, Australia..0 v. New Zealand..1														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
1	GK	Adam Federici				46	1	GK	Mark Paston					
2	DF	Lucas Neill					6	DF	Ryan Nelsen					
3	DF	Craig Moore				46	3	DF	Tony Lockhead				59	
20	DF	Mark Milligan		22			5	DF	Ivan Vicelich				51	
21	MF	David Carney					2	DF	Ben Sigmund					
10	MF	David Vidosic	57			78	11	MF	Leo Bertos				33	
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				46	8	MF	Tim Brown				46	
4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill		30		46	7	MF	Simon Elliott					
5	MF	Jason Culina					10	FW	Chris Killen	16			66	
13	FW	Vincenzo "Vince" Grella		27		46	14	FW	Rory Fallon					
17	FW	Scott McDonald				71	9	FW	Shane Smetiz				66	
SUBSTITUTES														
18	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				46	4	DF	Winston Reid				33	
6	DF	Michael Beauchamp				46	15	MF	Michael McGlinchey				46	
14	FW	Brett Holman	90+3			46	18	DF	Andrew Boyens		66		51	
7	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				46	19	DF	Tommy Smith				59	
16	MF	Carl Valeri				46	20	FW	Chris Wood				66	
11	FW	Nikita Rukavytsha				71	22	FW	Jeremy Brockie				66	
22	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar		87		78	12	GK	Glen Moss					
							13	MF	Andy Barron					
							16	MF	Aaron Clapham					
							17	MF	Dave Mulligan					
							21	MF	Jeremy Christie					
							23	GK	James Bannatyne					
Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek					Team Coach		Ricki Herbert					
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager							
Referee		Ricardo Salazar (U.S.A.)												
Assistant Referee 1														
Assistant Referee 2														

match report from the FFA

The Qantas Socceroos have snatched a dramatic 2-1 win over New Zealand in front of 55,659 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, with Brett Holman scoring the winner in the final seconds of the match. In the Qantas Socceroos' first hit out ahead of the tournament in South Africa, New Zealand took a first half lead through Middlesbrough striker Chris Killen before Dario Vidosic notched his first goal for his country just before the hour.

The match looked destined for a draw, but in the 93rd minute Holman, on as a second-half substitute, created an opening and then latched onto Carl Valeri's chip pass to give Australia what looked a fortunate victory. Pim Verbeek took the opportunity to look at as many of his players as possible, making seven substitutions during the match, including a debut to Adam Federici and a late substitutes appearance from teenage talent Tommy Oar.

After a subdued opening, Tim Cahill managed to get a shot away on nine minutes, but it was both tame and wide. New Zealand replied by creating an excellent chance soon after, Tim Brown pulling it just wide. New Zealand then stunned the home crowd on 16 minutes, after a long pass from Simon Elliott was well flicked on by Shane Smetz. Killen was at the far post to slide in ahead of Mark Milligan and knock the shot past Adam Federici.

A dominant New Zealand period ensued and the All Whites could have been two-up on 24 minutes when Killen was left alone in the box and his quickfire shot hit the post with Federici struggling to get there. Needing to chase the game, Australia was looking a little flustered and three players were booked in a ten minute period, with Milligan, Vince Grella and Cahill all earning the wrath of referee Ricardo Salazar. Rory Fallon could have also scored late in the half, heading over the top from close range, while Australia's best chance came when Mark Bresciano's clever free kick variation found David Carney who directed an excellent pass to an unmarked Scott McDonald.

McDonald hit the shot straight at NZ keeper Mark Paston and while the rebound fell at McDonald's feet he was unable to get it back near the goal.

Grella, Cahill, Craig Moore, Bresciano and Federici were substituted at half time replace by Brad Jones, Michael Beauchamp, Mile Jedinak, Valeri and Holman.

The second half began as the first half had finished with New Zealand looking more likely to score. Fallon launched an ambitious shot which had Jones scrambling on 50 minutes but after taking some time to settle, the revamped Australian line-up began to find its rhythm.

Milligan tried his hand from range and his deflected effort went narrowly wide, while Jason Culina, who had been deployed in a more attacking role, set-up the equaliser.

On 56 minutes, he played a neat one-two and then looked to set-up Vidolic. While there was an element of fortune in the deflection, the young striker surged into open space and pulled the trigger on a powerful shot which Paston had no hope of saving.

Australia continued to pour on the pressure after the hour mark with Culina relishing his new role, but its pressure amounted to nothing of substance in that period.

Instead it was New Zealand which could have taken the lead, when a superb 69th minute cross from the All Whites youngster Tommy Smith found Fallon unattended. Only Jones' quick reflexes prevented the visitors from scoring.

Oar replaced Vidolic and Nikita Rukavytsya came on for Scott McDonald late in the piece and while both were keen to make an impression, they failed to deliver any threat to the scoreline stalemate.

Instead it would be Holman who would decide the match in the final seconds, playing a clever ball to Culina, who knocked back for Valeri. Valeri chipped and Holman was there to knock in his second goal for his country.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
1st June 2010, 14.00			Ruimsig Stadium, Roodepoort, South Africa				Humid					6000	
Denmark ..0 v. Australia.. 1													
half time, Denmark..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
16	GK	Stephan Andersen					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
4	DF	Daniel Agger					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
6	DF	Lars Jacobsen					3	DF	Craig Moore				76
13	DF	Per Kroldrup					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
23	DF	Patrick Mtiliga		87			11	DF	Scott Chipperfield				46
2	MF	Christian Poulsen				79	4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				46
7	MF	Daniel Jensen				46	5	MF	Jason Culina				
12	MF	Thomas Kahlenburg				82	23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				73
20	MF	Thomas Enevoldsen				62	9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy	71			
21	MF	Christian Eriksen				46	13	FW	Vincenzo "Vince" Grella				73
9	FW	Jon Dahl Tomasson				62	19	FW	Richard Garcia				46
SUBSTITUTES													
22	GK	Jesper Christiansen					12	GK	Adam Federici				
5	MF	William Kvist					18	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
8	FW	Jesper Gronkjaer				62	6	DF	Michael Beauchamp				76
10	MF	Martin Jorgensen				79	14	FW	Brett Holman				46
14	MF	Jakob Poulsen				46	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				73
15	DF	Simon Busk Poulsen					16	MF	Carl Valeri				46
17	FW	Mikkel Beckmann				82	17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				
18	FW	Soren Larsen				62	20	DF	Mark Milligan				
19	FW	Dennis Rommedahl				46	21	MF	David Carney				46
1	GK	Thomas Sorensen					22	MF	Rhys Williams				
3	DF	Simon Kjaer					25	MF	Dario Vidolic				73
Team Coach							Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek				
Team Manager		Morten Olsen					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Daniel Bennett (Republic of South Africa)											
Assistant Referee 1		Johnny Du Toit (Republic of South Africa)											
Assistant Referee 2		Zakhele Siwela (Republic of South Africa)											

match report from the FFA

Giant striker Josh Kennedy has continued his remarkable scoring rate for Australia to give manager Pim Verbeek a pleasant selection dilemma ahead of the World Cup as the Qantas Socceroos beat Denmark 1-0 in their first warm-up friendly in South Africa on Tuesday night.

The match appeared headed for a 0-0 draw at Ruimsig Stadium on the outskirts of Johannesburg until Kennedy took full advantage of a slice of luck for the Aussies in the 71st minute to score his seventh goal in just eighteen appearances for the Qantas Socceroos.

Kennedy was playing as Australia's sole striker under Verbeek's preferred 4-5-1 system but it is a position he is only likely to have during the World cup should Verbeek's preferred choice of striker in Harry Kewell not be fit.

But while Kewell - who is expected to re-join full training with his teammates in South Africa on Thursday as his injured groin continues to improve - is expected to be fit for Australia's opening World Cup game against Germany in just under a fortnight; Kennedy again showed he is ready to step into the breach should Kewell either not be ready or suffer another injury setback.

Kennedy again demonstrated throughout the match of few chances that he is a great target man as he took full advantage of a deflected cross from Luke Wilkshire with just under twenty minutes remaining.

As a result of the deflection the ball looped up in the air between two Danish defenders and landed perfectly for the Japanese-based striker.

Kennedy then created more space for himself by heading the ball down before finishing superbly on the volley with his non-preferred right foot as he blasted home despite the close attention of Denmark defender Daniel Agger - who plays for English Premier League giants Liverpool.

It is the first goal Kennedy has ever scored for Australia that has not come as a result of a header but yet again underlined the 27-year-old's value to his country.

Kennedy's goal capped off a much-improved performance from the Qantas Socceroos compared to last week's 2-1 win over New Zealand in its Australian farewell friendly at the MCG as the Qantas Socceroos stretched their great recent record to just two defeats in their past twenty-one internationals under Verbeek.

And once again Australia kept a clean sheet with the Qantas Socceroos now having conceded just nine goals in their past nineteen matches to again send a warning to their Group D rivals in South Africa in Germany, Serbia and Ghana, that they will be an extremely difficult team to break down during the World Cup.

Verbeek made five changes from the starting line-up that struggled to beat lowly New Zealand with the Qantas Socceroos at full-strength other than Kewell and Brett Emerton, who is still recovering from a calf strain.

Number one keeper Mark Schwarzer, experienced defenders Luke Wilkshire and Scott Chipperfield as well as Richard Garcia and Kennedy all returned from injury as Adam Federici, Mark Milligan, David Carney, Dario Vidosic and the axed Scott McDonald were the players to make way from the team that started against the All Whites.

And the return of Chipperfield and Wilkshire in particular made the Australian defence look much more solid as Denmark rarely threatened throughout the match while Wilkshire's set pieces were a constant danger throughout as he again underlined his status as the country's most improved player since the last World Cup.

However the Danes elected not to start their two best strikers in Arsenal star Niklas Bendtner, who did not play at all, and Soren Larsen - who was their leading goalscorer during qualifying for the World Cup, although Larsen did not come on until the second half.

But Denmark, which has had the same manager in Morten Olsen for the past ten years and at thirty-six is ranked just sixteen places behind Australia on FIFA's official rankings, did field a strong defence including EPL stars Agger and Lars Jacobsen, who is a teammate of Vince Grella and Emerton at Blackburn Rovers.

However after Agger gave the Qantas Socceroos an early scare with a free-kick that whistled just wide in the fourth minute, the first half became a dour stalemate as both sides struggled on a sandy pitch and with their first taste of the World Cup ball which appeared to often "run away" from the players at altitude in Johannesburg.

Australia began to threaten Denmark in the air just before the half-time break despite Denmark enjoying the greater possession, while Schwarzer made his only save for the match early in the second half as the Danes - who will be appearing in their first major tournament since Euro 2004 - enjoyed their best spell of the match.

However as Verbeek made three changes at half-time with Brett Holman, Carl Valeri and David Carney on for Garcia, Tim Cahill and Chipperfield, Australia began to become more attacking on the back of their clear defensive stability at the other end as Kennedy eventually ensured a hard-fought but deserved win.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
5th. June 2010, 14.30			Ruimsig Stadium, Roodepoort, South Africa				Fair			19C		6000	
U.S.A. ...3 v. Australia.. 1													
half time, U.S.A...2 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Timothy "Tim" Howard				46	1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Carlos Bocanegra (c)				55	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
6	DF	Steven "Steve" Cherundolo					3	DF	Craig Moore		37		
15	DF	Jay DeMerit					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
21	DF	Clarence Goodson				61	11	DF	Scott Chipperfield				
4	MF	Michael Bradley					4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	19			46
8	MF	Clint Dempsey		37		82	5	MF	Jason Culina				61
10	MF	Landon Donovan					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				
13	MF	Ricardo Clark					9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				71
14	FW	Edson "Eddie" Buddle	4, 31			79	13	FW	Vincenzo "Vince" Grella		76		
20	FW	Robert "Robbie" Findley					19	FW	Richard Garcia				
SUBSTITUTES													
18	GK	Bradley "Brad" Guzan					12	GK	Adam Federici				
23	GK	Marcus Hahnemann				46	18	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
2	DF	Jonathan Spector					6	DF	Michael Beauchamp				
5	DF	Oguchi Onyewu				61	7	MF	Brett Emerton				
7	MF	DaMarcus Beasley				79	10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				
9	FW	Herculez Gomez	90+2			82	14	FW	Brett Holman				
11	MF	Stuart Holden					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
12	DF	Jonathan Bornstein				55	16	MF	Carl Valeri				46
16	MF	Jose Francisco Torres					17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				71
17	FW	Jozy Altidore					20	DF	Mark Milligan				
19	MF	Maurice Edu					21	MF	David Carney				
22	MF	Benny Feilhaber					22	MF	Dario Vidosic				61
Team Coach		Bob Bradley					Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Addul Ebrahim (Republic of South Africa)											
Assistant Referee 1		Luyanda Somi (Republic of South Africa)											
Assistant Referee 2		Andrew Reezers (Republic of South Africa)											

match report from the FFA

Australia has had a seven-match unbeaten streak broken in its final warm-up match before the World Cup, with Edson Buddle guiding the USA to a 3-1 win over the Qantas Socceroos in Johannesburg.

In a free-flowing and entertaining affair, both sides had plenty of chances to score, with Buddle's first-half double, scored either side of Tim Cahill's goal, putting the USA on route to victory before substitute Hercules Gomez sealed the win in the final minute of the game.

The altitude and the Jubilani ball played havoc with the game and that meant headaches for both defences and plenty of entertainment for the crowd, which included David Beckham, scouting for England which faces the USA in its group match.

Australia's first group opponent Germany, would have taken some heart with both the result and the inroads the American strike force made into the Qantas Socceroos' defence. However, Australia dominated possession and with a bit more sharpness in front of goal could have got a result.

The game started poorly for Australia, which was unchanged from the starting XI against Denmark. In the fourth minute, a defensive error from Vince Grella handed easy possession to Buddle, who took his chance, unleashing a powerful curling shot which Mark Schwarzer had no hope of stopping.

Ten minutes later, it should have been 2-0 after Robert Findley sprung the offside trap and then cleverly rounded Schwarzer. But facing an empty net, he somehow pushed his shot wide and spared Australia's blushes.

On 18 minutes, scores were level thanks to a typically clever run from a set piece from Cahill, Luke Wilkshire curled in a cross which the American defence failed to clear. At the far post, Cahill ducked in and steered a good shot past Everton clubmate Tim Howard.

The goalmouth action continued throughout the half and on 28 minutes, Clint Dempsey powered past Craig Moore and angled a shot which prompted an excellent save from Schwarzer.

The Australian keeper could do nothing to stop the next American shot, with Buddle getting in between Moore and Luke Wilkshire from a Michael Bradley cross. The LA Galaxy striker headed home for a 2-1 lead.

Within minutes, Australia could have been level, with the cross again proving the best route to goal. Scott Chipperfield curled a terrific pass in to Josh Kennedy, who failed to get his close range header on target.

Ahead of half time, Moore and Dempsey found themselves booked for an off the ball confrontation in a sign that there was little friendly about the encounter.

Cahill was replaced by Carl Valeri at the break, with Jason Culina deployed into an attacking role, but it was Chipperfield who provided the attacking spark, crossing for Kennedy, who again shot wide.

On fifty-two minutes, Australia was given another massive scare. Findley hit the bar, while Bradley followed up with a powerful shot which Schwarzer saved superbly, before Dempsey hit the back of the net, only for Findley, standing nearby, to be called offside.

Soon after Mark Bresciano and Chipperfield both prompted strong saves from substitute keeper Marcus Hahneemann. Culina was replaced by Dario Vidosic and Richard Garcia by Nikita Rukavyttsy as Pim Verbeek opted for a rare 4-4-2 setup. Rukavyttsy made an immediate impression, firing a shot at Hahneemann, while Bresciano had a late half-chance, which went over the bar. But Australia was unable to make the most of a series of late corners and Landon Donovan set-up Gomez for a goal in the final seconds to seal the win.

World Cup Finals, 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
13th. June 2010, 20.30			Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban, South Africa								62660		
Germany ..4 v. Australia.. 0													
half time, Germany..2 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Manuel Neuer					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Arne Friedrich					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)		46		
14	DF	Holger Badstuber					3	DF	Craig Moore		24		
16	DF	Philipp Lahm (c)					8	DF	Luke Wilshire				
17	DF	Per Mertesacker					11	DF	Scott Chipperfield				
6	MF	Sami Khedira					4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill			56	
7	MF	Bastian Schweinsteiger					5	MF	Jason Culina				
8	MF	Mesut Özil		12		73	7	MF	Brett Emerton				74
10	FW	Lukas Podolski	8			81	16	MF	Carl Valeri		58		
11	FW	Miroslav Klose	27			69	13	FW	Vincenzo "Vince" Grella				46
13	FW	Thomas Müller	68				19	FW	Richard Garcia				64
SUBSTITUTES													
12	GK	Tim Wiese					12	GK	Adam Federici				
22	GK	Hans-Jörg Butt					18	GK	Eugen Galekovic				
2	DF	Marcell Jansen					6	DF	Michael Beauchamp				
5	DF	Serdar Tasci					9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy				
20	DF	Jérôme Boateng					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				
4	DF	Dennis Aogo					14	FW	Brett Holman				46
15	MF	Piotr Trochowski					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				74
18	MF	Toni Kroos					17	FW	Nikita Rukavyttsy				64
21	MF	Marko Marin				81	20	DF	Mark Milligan				
9	FW	Stefan Kiessling					21	MF	David Carney				
19	FW	Claudemir "Cacau" Barreto	70	90+2		69	23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				
23	FW	Mario Gomez				73	22	MF	Dario Vidosic				
Team Coach		Joachim Löw					Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Marco Rodriguez (Mexico)											
Assistant Referee 1		Jose Camargo (Mexico)											
Assistant Referee 2		Albero Morin (Mexico)											

match report from the FFA

Australia has received a massive reality check in its opening game of the 2010 World Cup, completely overwhelmed by Germany, which prevailed 4-0 in Durban.

It is hard to imagine how Australia's World Cup could have started on a poorer note. Not only did the Qantas Socceroos leak four goals - two in each half - but midfielder Tim Cahill was sent off and will miss the next game against Ghana in Rustenburg on Saturday.

Given the massive goal difference Australia has conceded in its opening match, the next encounter looms as a must-win, with Ghana already on three points after earlier defeating Serbia 1-0 in Pretoria.

The massive Australian contingent in the crowd of 62,660 at the newly-built Moses Mabhida Stadium went home disappointed and wondering if the Qantas Socceroos can perform one of the biggest turnarounds in World Cup history.

Australia could have taken a valuable lead inside the first four minutes. From Luke Wilshire's cross, Cahill flicked on and after Lucas Neill scotched his shot, the ball fell to Richard Garcia. Garcia's effort was blocked by Lahm close to the line.

From then on, it was all Germany in the first half, with Miroslav Klose's first shot parried before a busy Mesut Ozil had his shot deflected over. Germany's pace out wide was causing Australia all sorts of problems and it wasn't surprising that the opening goal on eight minutes came from a cross.

Thomas Muller slipped the offside trap and his cross ran through the box to a charging Lukas Podolski at the far post. The shot was low and fierce and all Mark Schwarzer could do was knock it into the top of the net. Australia had a couple of half-chances in the aftermath of the opening goal with Jason Culina heading over from a Brett Emerton cross before Garcia slapped a good chance well wide. But Germany was creating opportunities of quality and Klose should have scored when put through on Mark Schwarzer. He made up for that on 26 minutes, when Philipp Lahm put in a sublime cross which forced Schwarzer off his line. Klose rose to meet it ahead of the keeper and found the net for his 11th World Cup goal. Before the half would end, Ozil could have collected a brace. The 21-year-old's pace was too much for the Australian defence to handle and only Neill's desperate clearance off the line prevented him from scoring. The young Werder Bremen star then had only himself to blame when he rounded Schwarzer but toed the ball over the byline. Brett Holman replaced Vince Grella at the break and worked enough space to create an opening for himself early in the second half, but shot wide. But the crucial moment of the second half came on 56 minutes when Cahill lunged in on Bastian Schweinsteiger and earned a straight red card. The deflating effect on the Australian team was immediate and Klose was closing in on another goal. Twice he went close, while a busy Schwarzer also denied Podolski. But the impressive Muller found a way past the experienced Australian keeper on 68 minutes, hitting a powerful shot to make it 3-0. Facing a forlorn task, Pim Verbeek sent Nikita Rukavytsya and Mile Jedinak on late, but Germany was up for blood and had a fourth on 70 minutes. The brilliant Ozil put a clever ball through for substitute Cacau, who could hardly miss from point blank range. Content with its efforts, Germany sat back in the final minutes. Rukavytsya could have got himself a consolation, but was unable to finish a good chance as Australia crashed to its worst defeat at a World Cup.

World Cup Finals, 1st. Round														
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
19th. June 2010, 16.00			Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Rustenburg, South Africa				Fine					34812		
Ghana ..1 v. Australia..1														
half time, Ghana..1 v. Australia..1														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
22	GK	Richard Kingson					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					
2	DF	Hans Sarpei					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)					
4	DF	John Paintsil					3	DF	Craig Moore		85			
8	DF	Jonathan Mensah		79			8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				85	
19	DF	Lee Addy		40			5	MF	Jason Culina					
6	MF	Anthony Annan		84			7	MF	Brett Emerton					
13	MF	Andre Ayew					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell			25		
23	MF	Kevin Prince Boateng				87	16	MF	Carl Valeri					
3	FW	Asamoah Gyan	26 (pk)				21	MF	David Carney					
12	FW	Prince Tagoe				57	23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				66	
21	FW	Kwadwo Asamoah				77	14	FW	Brett Holman	12			68	
SUBSTITUTES														
1	GK	Daniel Adjiei					12	GK	Adam Federici					
5	DF	John Mensah					18	GK	Eugen Galekovic					
7	DF	Samuel Inkoom					6	DF	Michael Beauchamp					
9	MF	Derek Boateng					9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy				68	
10	MF	Stephen Appiah					11	DF	Scott Chipperfield				66	
11	MF	Sulley Muntari				77	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					
14	FW	Matthew Amoah				87	17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				85	
16	GK	Stephen Ahorlu					19	FW	Richard Garcia					
17	MF	Ibrahim Ayew					20	DF	Mark Milligan					
18	FW	Domonic Adiyiah					22	MF	Dario Vidosic					
20	MF	Quincy Owusu-Abeyie				57	4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill					
15	DF	Isaac Vorsah					13	FW	Vincenzo "Vince" Grella					
Team Coach		Milo Rajevac					Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek					
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti					
Referee		Roberto Rosetti (Italy)												
Assistant Referee 1		Paolo Calcagno (Italy)												
Assistant Referee 2		Stefano Ayroldi (Italy)												

match report from the FFA

Australia's hopes of qualifying for the second round of the World Cup are still alive after a brave ten-man Qantas Socceroos side held on for a 1-1 draw against Ghana in Rustenburg on Saturday.

Australia's chances of progressing to the round of sixteen depend on it winning against Serbia in Nelspruit on Wednesday and either Ghana beating Germany, or Germany beating Ghana and Australia making up a five goal difference on the African side.

It was a match of huge drama, with Australia taking the lead on 11 minutes through Brett Holman before Harry Kewell was sent off for a handball offence on the goal-line fourteen minutes later. Asamoah Gyan converted the penalty.

The Qantas Socceroos then weathered a Ghana storm late in the first half before dominating the match in the final forty-five. Luke Wilkshire could have won it, but his close-range shot was blocked in the 71st minute.

Australia, featuring four changes from the team which lost 4-0 to Germany, began brightly and in the second minute Kewell had a penalty appeal turned down after a tangle with Lee Addy.

Things were looking a little disorganised in the Ghanaian defence, with Addy and goalkeeper Richard Kingson messing things up and almost letting Kewell in.

Kingson was again at fault for the opening goal on 11 minutes, with Mark Bresciano taking a free kick and hitting it to the keeper on the bounce. He failed to deal with it and Holman latched onto the ball to score.

After its shaky start, Ghana began to work itself into the contest and on twenty minutes Andre Ayew has his shot deflected over by Lucas Neill. Neil was again on hand to deflect Gyan's first shot on goal.

However from that corner, some sensational build up work from Ayew, created an opening. He beat both Wilkshire and Brett Emerton and hit a great cross which Jonathan Mensah was there to meet at the far post.

His shot was blocked by Kewell on the line, with Italian referee Roberto Rosetti determining the Australian striker used his arm to prevent the goal-bound shot. He had little option but to point to the spot and give Kewell his marching orders.

Gyan stepped up to convert the penalty and Ghana had its tail up with sixty-five minutes remaining.

Minutes later Prince Tagoe narrowly missed with a shot while Kevin Prince Boateng's shot in the final moments of the half produced an excellent save from Mark Schwarzer.

Gyan proved more than a handful for the Australian defence for much of the second half and on three separate occasions threatened to give his side the lead. He tested out Schwarzer twice in a ten minute period before supplying a bullet like cross, which Kwadwo Asamoah just missed making contact with.

However, the arrival of Josh Kennedy and Scott Chipperfield pulled the game back into Australia's favour. Chipperfield launched himself onto a long cross and headed over before winning the ball back and setting

Wilkshire up for a golden chance. However, with only the keeper to beat, he failed to get past Kingson, who redeemed himself for the earlier error. Kennedy failed to get any power on the rebound.

Brett Emerton had a free kick go over the bar, while sub Nikita Rukavytsya looked a chance before his challenge on Kingson was ruled too robust.

Mensah then hit a late shot just over the bar and it would end in a draw.

World Cup Finals, 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
23rd. June 2010, 20.30			Mbombela Stadium, Nelspruit, South Africa			Fine					37836		
Serbia ..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Serbia..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Vladimir Stojkovic					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
5	DF	Nemanja Vidic					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
6	DF	Branislav Ivanovic					6	DF	Michael Beauchamp		49		
13	DF	Aleksandar Lukovic		18			8	DF	Luke Wilkshire		50		82
16	DF	Ivan Obradovic					4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	70			
10	MF	Dejan Stankovic					5	MF	Jason Culina				
14	MF	Milan Jovanovic					7	MF	Brett Emerton		67		
17	MF	Milos Krasic				62	16	MF	Carl Valeri				66
18	MF	Milos Ninkovic		59			21	MF	David Carney				
22	MF	Zdravko Kuzmanovic				77	23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				66
15	FW	Nikola Zigic				67	9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Antonio Rukavina					11	DF	Scott Chipperfield				66
3	DF	Aleksandar Kolarov					12	GK	Adam Federici				
4	MF	Gojko Kacar					13	FW	Vincenzo "Vince" Grella				
7	MF	Zoran Tosic				62	14	FW	Brett Holman	74			66
8	FW	Danko Lazovic				77	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
9	FW	Marko Pantelic	85			67	17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				
11	MF	Nenad Milijas					18	GK	Eugen Galekovic				
12	GK	Bojan Isailovic					19	FW	Richard Garcia				82
19	MF	Radosav Petrovic					20	DF	Mark Milligan				
20	DF	Neven Subotic					22	MF	Dario Vidosic				
21	FW	Dragan Mrdja					3	DF	Craig Moore				
23	GK	Andjelko Djuricic					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				
Team Coach		Radomir Antic					Team Coach		Peter (Pim) Verbeek				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Jorge Larrionda (Uruguay)											
Assistant Referee 1		Pablo Fandino (Uruguay)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mauricio Espinosa (Uruguay)											

match report from the FFA

Goals from Tim Cahill and Brett Holman have guided Australia to a 2-1 win over Serbia in its final group game of the World Cup in Nelspruit, but it wasn't enough to get the Qantas Socceroos through to the knockout stages of the tournament.

Goal difference thwarted Australia's hopes of getting through to the second round as it finished level on points with Ghana, but had a goal difference of minus-three to the Africans' zero.

In a performance full of character, Cahill scored with a header in the 69th minute before Holman hit a superb long-range stike four minutes later to give Australia hope of turning around the goal difference on Ghana.

However, a goalkeeping error from an otherwise excellent Mark Schwarzer allowed Marko Pantelic to pull one back for Serbia in the 84th minute.

Ghana was able to hold on for a 1-0 loss to Germany, meaning it becomes the only African nation to progress to the final sixteen, while Australia goes home with its heads held high after a valiant attempt to win its way through.

Serbia clearly had the best of the early exchanges and twice tested Schwarzer out inside the first thirty minutes. Milos Krasic broke clear for the first chance after a turnover from Mark Bresciano on thirteen minutes, but Schwarzer steered the Serbian winger wide and the shot was wayward.

The next chance also came down the left nine minutes later with Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic finding himself one-on-one with the Australia keeper, but Schwarzer was equal to the task. Dejan Stankovic and Nikola Zigic also had half-chances, but failed to find the net.

Australia's two best opportunities came late in the half, both from headers. Bresciano found enough space to deliver a cross for Cahill, but the Qantas Socceroos midfielder went wide with his shot. Josh Kennedy headed a shot straight at the keeper with a free header in the final minutes after he and Cahill had mucked up an earlier chance set up by David Carney.

Serbia again dominated early in the second half, but Zigic was having a frustrating evening and headed over an excellent chance.

It was then that Australia enjoyed its best period of the game with Jason Culina trying his hand from range along with Bresciano, who forced an error from Vladimir Stijovic but both his team-mates were offside on the follow up.

In a bid to push for the win, Pim Verbeek brought on Scott Chipperfield and Holman for Carl Valeri and Bresciano. The move re-invigorated Australia and when Luke Wilkshire sent in a long cross from the right, Cahill rose superbly over Nemanja Vidic and netted his 21st goal for his country.

Daring to dream of a miraculous turnaround, Australia pressed forward and Holman took aim from some thirty metres. It wasn't a powerful shot, but it was accurate, leaving Stojkovic no hope of saving.

It was Holman's second goal in as many games and this tournament maybe viewed as the moment he announced himself as the start of the next generation of Qantas Socceroos.

Suddenly, the game got frantic, with Australia pushing for a heavy win to get back into calculations. However, it came at an expense with Serbia able to hit the Qantas Socceroos on the counter-attack. Substitute Zoran Tomic worked himself some space, fired in a shot which proved too hot for Schwarzer. Pantelic was there to knock home the shot and Australia's hopes were all but dashed.

Serbia was back in the hunt to get through, with a draw enough for it to overtake Ghana. Pantelic had a clear chance in the final minutes, but shot over. Up the other end, Australia continued to press but the best efforts of both Kennedy and Culina could not increase the lead.

In the end Australia finished with the same points as it did four years ago in Germany, but the magnitude of its opening 4-0 loss to the German team in Durban proved the difference between progressing and going home.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
11th. August 2010, 20.45			Športni Park Stožice, Ljubljana, Slovenia				Fine					16155	
Slovenia ..2 v. Australia..0													
half time, Slovenia..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Samir Handanovic					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				46
2	DF	Miso Brecko					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
5	DF	Bostjan Cesar					3	DF	Jade North				
13	DF	Bojan Jokic				81	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
22	DF	Matej Mavric					11	MF	David Carney				
8	MF	Robert Koren (c)					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				88
10	MF	Valter Birsa				68	16	MF	Carl Valeri				
17	MF	Andraz Kirm				85	19	FW	Richard Garcia				
18	MF	Aleksandar Radosavljevic					14	FW	Brett Holman				
11	FW	Milivoje Novakovic				75	13	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				71
23	FW	Tim Matavz				46	9	FW	Bruce Djite				55
SUBSTITUTES													
12	GK	Jasmin Handanovič					18	GK	Adam Federici				46
16	GK	Aleksander Seliga					4	DF	Jonathon "Jon" McKain				
3	DF	Dejan Kelhar					5	MF	James Holland				88
6	DF	Branko Ilič				81	6	MF	Shane Lowry				
7	MF	Dare Vrsič				85	7	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
9	FW	Zlatan Ljubijankič	90+1			75	10	MF	Dario Vidosic				55
14	FW	Zlatko Dedić	78			46	17	MF	Nathan Burns				71
15	FW	Miran Burgič											
19	FW	Josip Iličić				68							
21	MF	Armin Bacinovič											
Team Coach		Matjaz Kek					Team Coach		Johan "Han" Berger				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Paolo Tagliavento (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 1		Andrea Stefani (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mauro Tonolini (Italy)											

match report from the FFA

Incoming Australia manager Holger Osieck was given plenty to ponder as he watched the Socceroos sink to a 2-0 loss to Slovenia in Ljubljana on Thursday morning.

A 77th minute header from half-time substitute Zlatko Dedic and a last-gasp drive from Zlatan Ljubijankic were the difference, and it was no less than the home team deserved after dictating play against the flat Socceroos.

Unveiled before the game, German Osieck has a task on his hands to break his new side out of the mould crafted by dour Dutch predecessor Pim Verbeek.

Having failed to make it out of the group stage and possessing the third-oldest squad at the 2010 World Cup, it was little surprise that interim manager Han Berger put out a far younger team against Slovenia.

Missing were rested stars Tim Cahill, Harry Kewell and Vince Grella and retirees Scott Chipperfield and Craig Moore.

But despite several fresh faces in the line-up - including attackers Nikita Rukavytsya and Bruce Djite - Australia's struggles continue.

The Socceroos were kept pinned back in their half by Slovenia for much of the encounter.

With captain Robert Koren pulling the strings in midfield, Slovenia adopted a shoot-on-sight approach to the first game at the European country's new national stadium.

Koren was well supported by wingers Valter Birsa and Andraz Kirm, who kept first Mark Schwarzer and then half-time replacement Adam Federici busy.

The highlights were few for the Socceroos, who seemed devoid of invention when in possession. They did come closest to finding the back of the net in a scoreless first half when Slovenian keeper Samir Handanovic misjudged a Mile Jedinak cross on thirty-five minutes. After the ball bounced over Handanovic's head and rebounded off the upright, Djite skied his shot over when it seemed easier to score. Perhaps aggrieved not to have capitalised on their dominance in the first half, Slovenia began the second period by piling the pressure on the beleaguered Lucas Neill-led Australian defence. After the home side went close on a host of occasions, it was Dedic who broke the deadlock. Right-back Miso Brecko's left-foot cross was met deftly by the head of the Bochum forward just inside the box, with Federici's outstretched right hand unable to get a touch as it floated in. Fellow substitute Ljuljankic doubled the advantage in the shadow of full-time, pouncing on a poor Neill touch to drive a shot past a despairing Federici.

Date & Time				Venue				Weather				Temperature		Attendance	
3rd. September 2010, 20.15				AFG Arena, St.Gallen, Switzerland				Fine						14660	
Switzerland ..0 v. Australia..0															
half time, Switzerland.0. v. Australia..0															
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution		
START LIST															
12	GK	Marco Wölfli					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer						
2	DF	Stephan Lichtsteiner				46	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)		59				
4	DF	Francois Affolter					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic						
13	DF	Stephane Grichting				46	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire						
8	MF	Gokhan Inler				46	3	MF	David Carney						
15	MF	David Degen				70	4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				67		
16	MF	Gelson Fernandes					5	MF	Jason Culina						
22	MF	Xavier Margairaz					7	MF	Brett Emerton						
9	FW	Alexander Frei (c)				67	16	MF	Carl Valeri		80		82		
18	FW	Albert Bunjaku					14	FW	Brett Holman				84		
19	FW	Eren Derdiyok				46	17	FW	Scott McDonald						
SUBSTITUTES															
3	DF	Reto Ziegler				70	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				82		
6	MF	Pirmin Schwegler				46	22	MF	Dario Vidosic				67		
17	MF	Scott Sutter				46	23	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				84		
20	MF	Moreno Costanzo				67		MF	Nathan Burns						
23	MF	Xherdan Shaqiri				46		GK	Adam Federici						
								FW	Richard Garcia						
								DF	Jade North						
								DF	Jonathon "Jon" McKain						
Team Coach		Ottmar Hitzfeld					Team Coach		Holger Osieck						
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti						
Referee		Thomas Einwaller (Austria)													
Assistant Referee 1		Armin Eder (Austria)													
Assistant Referee 2		Klaus Strasser (Austria)													

match report from the FFA
New Australia coach Holger Osieck has a missed penalty and the heroics of Mark Schwarzer to thank as the Socceroos earned a 0-0 draw with Switzerland in St.Gallen on Friday. Osieck's men had plenty of chances to score in the German's first game in charge, but Australia were ultimately lucky to come away with the draw after Alexander Frei blazed over from twelve yards on the hour mark. Lucas Neill barged into David Degen to give away the penalty with 58 minutes gone, the Socceroos' captain earning a yellow card in the process. But FC Basel striker Frei failed to take advantage of the gift, striking his spot kick high and wide of the right-hand post. Schwarzer made a number of decisive contributions, tipping a Xavier Margairaz volley past the near post a minute into the second half, before saving from Degen after the Young Boys player burst into the box and shot low to Schwarzer's right. Dario Vidosic might have stolen a winner for Australia with three minutes left, but the substitute had a header clawed away from goal by Swiss keeper Marco Wölfli. The game began frantically, with both sides missing a hatful of chances to take the early lead. Frei fired the first salvo, blazing over the bar with seven minutes gone after Carl Valeri lost possession on the edge of the box. Two minutes later and Neill wasted a golden chance to take the lead, somehow hooking a shot over the bar from barely a metre out after Tim Cahill headed a corner kick goalwards. The Swiss then proceeded to miss their own sitter, with Albert Bunjaku ghosting in behind the Australian defence to strike a low shot, only to see Schwarzer make a point-blank save to maintain the deadlock. World Cup revelation Brett Holman then had Wölfli scrambling to save on the line after a back-post shot from a Scott McDonald cross. On twenty-four minutes Wölfli parried a Brett Emerton strike into the path of Valeri, who shot over from close range. The Socceroos emerged to control the remainder of the half, with World Cup exile Scott McDonald impressing up top. Osieck's men were less impressive in the second half, but a slew of substitutions killed the Swiss' momentum, allowing Australia to see out the remainder of the game, surviving a near miss when Margairaz struck over with seconds remaining.

Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
7th. September 2010, 12.00			Stadion Wisly, Krakow, Poland								16000		
Poland ..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Poland..1 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
	GK	Przemyslaw Tyton						GK	Adam Federici				
	DF	Michal Zewlakow		24				DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
	DF	Grzegorz Wojtkowiak						DF	Luke Wilkshire	26 (pk)			
	DF	Dariusz Pietrasiak				69		DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain		33		
	DF	Sebastian Boenisch						MF	David Carney				
	MF	Slawomir Peszko				75		MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				75
	MF	Lukasz Piszczek						MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
	MF	Rafal Murawski		90				MF	Carl Valeri				55
	MF	Jakub Blaszczykowski						FW	Brett Holman	14			28
	FW	Ireneusz Jelen				82		FW	Richard Garcia		68		
	FW	Robert Lewandowski	19					FW	Scott McDonald				80
SUBSTITUTES													
	FW	Euzebiusz Smolarek				69		MF	Nathan Burns				80
	FW	Kamil Grosicki				75		MF	Jason Culina				55
	MF	Maciej Iwanski				82		MF	Brett Emerton			71	28
	GK	Artur Boruc						DF	Jade North				
	MF	Adam Matuszczyk						FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
	GK	Grzegorz Sandomierski						GK	Mark Schwarzer				
	DF	Kamil Glik						DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
	MF	Maciej Rybus						MF	Dario Vidosic				75
	DF	Maciej Sadlok											
Team Coach		Franciszek Smuda					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Ivan Bebek (Croatia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Miro Grgić (Croatia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Boško Vukušić (Croatia)											

match report from the FFA

Holger Osieck has claimed his first win as Qantas Socceroos coach with his side riding their luck on their way to a 2-1 victory over Poland in Krakow.

A Brett Holman strike and a Luke Wilkshire penalty was enough to see Australia home despite Brett Emerton's sending off and Poland holding sway for large portions of the match.

Osieck had watched on as the Qantas Socceroos hung on to a 0-0 draw with Switzerland on Friday in his first match at the helm, and his new team served up just as many white-knuckled defensive moments in Poland.

But while the likes of Scott McDonald and skipper Lucas Neill spurned glorious chances to score against the Swiss, Osieck had to wait just 13 minutes for the Qantas Socceroos to find the back of the net against the Poles.

After weathering a front of Polish pressure in the game's early stages, Neill showed vision to find Wilkshire on the right byline, with his cutback collected by Holman inside the area.

One of the few success stories of the Qantas Socceroos' 2010 World Cup campaign, Holman still had plenty to do but was up to the task by taking one deft touch and then firing past Poland goalkeeper Przemyslaw Tyton.

But Australia's joy lasted just four minutes, when Robert Lewandowski - part of a lively Poland strike troika also included Jakob Blaszczykowski and Ireneusz Jelen - steered a cross from the left past Adam Federici in Australia's goal.

Australia re-established their lead when Richard Garcia was felled in the box after 24 minutes and Wilkshire duly converted, but the Qantas Socceroos had to rely on Federici's left hand to keep hold of their advantage when Jon McKain gave away a penalty at the other end three minutes later.

One of several players handed a clean slate by Osieck, McKain - capless in four years before his start against Poland - had little to complain about with his late-reacting challenge on Blaszczykowski.

But Federici, handed his chance after incumbent No.1 Mark Schwarzer was rested, tipped Lewandowski's tame effort wide to preserve his country's advantage.

However, the Reading shot-stopper's work was far from done.

Australia lived dangerously in the second half as Poland pushed for an equaliser, with the Qantas Socceroos regularly finding themselves bogged down in their own defence.

Poland's task was made easier by the dismissal of Emerton on seventy minutes, but a combination of alert keeping from Federici and some shoddy finishing kept the home side at bay.

Emerton received two yellow cards in as many seconds, having been booked initially for holding back Blaszczykowski and then immediately after for dissent.

But fortune remained on the Qantas Socceroos' side, handing Osieck the maiden win of his new job.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
9th. October 2010, 20.00			Sydney Football Stadium, Moore Park, New South Wales				Fine			14C		25210	
Australia ..1 v. Paraguay..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. Paraguay..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mark Schwarzer (c)					12	GK	Diego Daniel Barreto				
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire					6	DF	Carlos Bonet				
13	DF	Jade North					14	DF	Paulo Cesar da Silva Barrios (c)				
20	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain					2	DF	Dario Verón Maldonado		85		
3	DF	David Carney	53				3	DF	Claudio Marcelo Morel Rodriguez		24		81
19	MF	Richard Garcia				90	15	MF	Victor Javier Caceres				
5	MF	Jason Culina					7	MF	Hernan Arsenio Pérez				66
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					19	MF	Derlis Orue				53
10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				88	16	MF	Cristian Miguel Riveros				78
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				76	11	MF	Nestor Abraham Camacho				54
9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				61	18	FW	Nelson Haedo Valdez				76
SUBSTITUTES													
6	DF	Michael Thwaite					1	GK	Justo Villar				
11	MF	Alex Brosque				90	4	DF	Cesar Benítez				81
14	FW	Matthew McKay				76	8	MF	Osmar Molinas				
16	MF	Carl Valeri					9	FW	Federico Santander				76
17	FW	Scott McDonald				61	10	FW	Edgar Benítez				66
18	GK	Eugen Galekovic					13	MF	Enrique Daniel Vera				78
22	MF	Dario Vidosic				88	17	MF	Marcos Riveros				53
							20	MF	Oswaldo David Martinez				54
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Gerardo Martino				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager						
Referee		Yuichi Nishimura (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1													
Assistant Referee 2													

match report from ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

David Carney made himself known to new boss Holger Osieck with a sweet second-half strike to set up Australia's 1-0 win over Paraguay in Sydney on Saturday night.

Carney improved upon his already impressive international record with a 53rd-minute goal that put the Socceroos into a match-winning position in Osieck's first match in charge on Australian soil.

Despite a reasonably poor first-half effort in which Paraguay effectively broke up the Australians' play, the growing reputation of Carney's left foot delivered victory over the World Cup quarter-finalists.

A clumsy aerial duel involving beanpole striker Josh Kennedy saw the ball fall into Carney's path and the Blackpool defender made no mistake with a cracking drive inside the near post.

Osieck named a strong side skippered by recently crowned FFA Footballer of the Year Mark Schwarzer, the Socceroos' heroic goalkeeper deputising for injured defender Lucas Neill.

A new-look central defensive pairing of Jade North and Jon McKain managed to effectively shut out a Paraguayan side missing several stars such as Roque Santa Cruz, with familiar faces carrying Australia's hopes in attack.

Harry Kewell and Josh Kennedy looked sharp up front in their return to Socceroos action, with Tim Cahill leading an Australian midfield featuring Mile Jedinak and Richard Garcia.

Kewell hailed Australia's hard-working performance on a difficult night in Sydney.

"(It was a) very tough result. I thought the boys played well, we worked very hard and it was a great finish by Carney," he told Fox Sports.

"It was good to get back to getting confidence in the team again and I think you saw that tonight. It's always great playing back for your country and it's always a stern test."

Goal-shy striker Scott McDonald came off the bench but was unable to break his international drought, as Osieck gave 25 minutes of action to Matt McKay.

McKay, skipper of A-League franchise Brisbane Roar, has been rewarded for his starring role in the club's impressive start to the 2010/11 domestic campaign under the tutelage of Ange Postecoglou.

Late cameos were afforded to Dario Vidosic and Sydney FC striker Alex Brosque, who was treated to a rousing reception from his hometown fans as Osieck rotated the bench for the international friendly.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature			Attendance	
17th. November 2010, 19.30			Cairo International Stadium, Cairo, Egypt				Fine						25000	
Egypt ..3 v. Australia..0														
half time, Egypt..1 v. Australia..0														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
16	GK	Abdulwahed El-Sayed (c)				61	1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					
2	DF	Mahmoud Fathalla Abdo El-Henawy					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)		89			
6	DF	Ahmed Samir Farag					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				66	
	DF	Ahmed Mohamed Abdallah Duiedar					3	DF	David Carney					
20	DF	Wael Gomaa Kamel El-Hooty					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire		66		89	
7	MF	Ahmed Fathy					5	MF	Jason Culina					
10	MF	Islam Awad Ismail El-Morsy				53	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					
12	MF	Ibrahim Salah Abdel-Fattah					7	MF	Brett Emerton				34	
13	MF	Mohamed Mohamed Mohamed Aboutrika				58	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				80	
	FW	Ahmed Eid Abdel Malek		44		55	14	FW	Brett Holman				70	
14	FW	Ahmed Abdul Zaher	29			59	17	FW	Scott McDonald					
SUBSTITUTES														
	MF	Walid Soliman Said		90		55	19	MF	Richard Garcia				34	
		Ahmed Eissa El-Muhammadi Abdel Fattah				53	13	DF	Jade North				66	
3	DF													
15	FW	Mohamed Nagy Ismail Afash "Gedo"	59			59, 74	22	MF	Dario Vidosic				70	
1	GK	Mohamed Yasser Mansour Sobhy				61	11	MF	Matthew McKay				80	
11	FW	Ahmed Hassan Mekky				74	16	MF	Carl Valeri				89	
9	FW	Mohamed Abdullah Zidan	89(pk)	90		58		GK	Nathan Coe					
								DF	Michael Thwaite					
Team Coach		Hassan Shehata					Team Coach		Holger Osieck					
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti					
Referee		Anton Genov (Bulgaria)												
Assistant Referee 1		Nikolay Angelov (Bulgaria)												
Assistant Referee 2		Nikolay Petrov (Bulgaria)												

Ahmed Mohamed Abdallah Duiedar is also shown as Ahmed Dewidar and Ahmed Dowidar. Ahmed Hassan Mekky is also shown as Ahmed Hassan Mekky.

Ahmed Fathy is also shown as Ahmed Fathi. Ahmed Eissa El-Muhammadi Abdel Fattah is also shown as Ahmed Elmohamady.

match report from the FFA

Australia's first ever trip to Cairo proved an unfruitful one after they were defeated 3-0 by an impressive Egypt side. The African champions had just too much for a disjointed Australian outfit.

Having gone fourteen matches since being defeated at home (against Argentina in 2008) Egypt started cautiously and were very defensive for the opening twenty minutes.

After the opening goal in the 29th minute though, Egypt took control of the game and Australia never really looked like getting back into it.

The Qantas Socceroos did slightly edge the opening half an hour though and Tim Cahill had a golden chance that you would've backed him to score nine times out of ten. Wilkshire was also a huge plus point on the right hand side and his crosses were always dangerous.

The opening goal seemed to give Egypt the momentum they needed though and their energy and imagination was too much for an out of sorts Australian outfit. Another big positive for Australia was the eagerly anticipated debut of Sasa Ognenovski who recently led his club side to the AFC Champions league trophy on Saturday.

He was given a tough welcome to international football though when he was pulled out of position in the build up to the first goal. Making only his second appearance, Ahmed Abdul Zaher latched onto a blocked shot and put the ball in the back of the net to open the scoring.

The game then seemed to swing in the favour of the hosts and when influential midfielder Brett Emerton went off injured, the visitors never looked like getting back into the match.

Egypt had dominated possession since half time and just before the hour mark the game was effectively put to bed when substitute Gedo scored with his first touch from the best move of the game.

A defense splitting pass from fellow sub Mohamed Zidan was inch perfect for Gedo who fired home from five metres out. The game then fizzled out somewhat and the Qantas Socceroos were fairly unimpressive through the remainder of the match.

Even the ever-reliable Tim Cahill was largely subdued, shown by him missing a couple of chances that he would have buried week in week out in the Premiership.

The disappointing night was underlined in the final minute as Egypt were awarded a penalty after Lucas Neill was adjudged to have fouled Gedo in the penalty box.

Replays suggested the penalty decision was very harsh on Neill but substitute Zidan added a goal to his earlier assist and put an end to a miserable night for the Aussies.

The last game before the Asian Championships next year was slightly disappointing but it mustn't be forgotten that they were playing a top ten side in the world and preparation time for the Aussies was an absolute minimum in the build up to the game. With most of the players flown in only a couple of days prior to the game, getting a real game-plan together must have been hard for the coaching staff.

Being only the fifth loss in twenty-two internationals it's hardly too much cause for concern ahead of the Qatar tournament in January. Something they will take from the outing as the acclimatisation of conditions in Qatar will be similar to Cairo.

2011

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
5th January 2011, 18.30			Khalifa Stadium, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates				Good						
United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..0													
half time, United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Majed Naser Al-Maqdemi					18	GK	Bradley Jones				46
4	DF	Faris Jumaa Al-Saadi				86	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire		28		46
8	DF	Hamdan Al-Kamali		74			2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
14	DF	Walid Abbas Al-Bloushi		79			6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski		82		
17	DF	Yousif Jaber Al-Hammadi					3	DF	David Carney				
5	MF	Amer Abdulrahman Al-Hamadi		83			16	MF	Carl Valeri				
7	MF	Ali Al-Wehaibi				46	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				63
24	MF	Subait Khater Al-Mukhaini (c)				86	14	MF	Brett Holman				63
26	MF	Mahmoud Khamis Al-Hammadi				46	17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
10	FW	Ismail Matar Al-Mukhaini				73	11	FW	Nathan Burns				
11	FW	Ahmed Khalil Al-Junaibi				46	7	FW	Scott McDonald				63
SUBSTITUTES													
13	MF	Theyab Awanah Al-Musabi				46	12	GK	Nathan Coe				46
3	DF	Juma Mohamed Ahmad Ali Gharib				86	13	DF	Jade North				46
19	DF	Abdulaziz Hussain Mubarak Al-Balooshi				46	20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
2	DF	Khalid Sabil Lashkari				86	21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
9	FW	Mohammed Saeed Al-Shehhi				73	19	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				63
15	MF	Ismail Saeed Al-Hammadi				46	22	MF	Neil Kilkeny				63
							23	FW	Robbie Kruse				63
Team Coach		Srecko Katanec					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Ali Shaban (Kuwait)											
Assistant Referee 1		Sultan Sahoo (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hasan Saqatri (United Arab Emirates)											

match report from SBS

A below-strength Australia was served a taste of the challenge that lay ahead when held to a scoreless draw by a stubborn United Arab Emirates in its final AFC Asian Cup tune-up in Al Ain.

Australia coach Holger Osieck opted to rest big guns Tim Cahill, Harry Kewell, Brett Emerton, Jason Culina and Mark Schwarzer for the friendly, taking a chance to test out the bulk of his squad.

But it wasn't easy going for a host of fringe players, with Australia failing to break down its opponent despite a decent pitch and favourable conditions in UAE's garden city.

Australia could have come away with a win after captain Lucas Neill found the back of the net in the 57th minute only for the goal to be somewhat-harshly ruled out with centre-back partner Sasa Ognenovski adjudged offside in the build-up.

UAE also had its chances for victory, forcing some good late saves out of debutant Nathan Coe while Fares Juma (*Faris Jumaa*) hit the post late with a powerful long-range shot.

Osieck handed starts to the likes of Nathan Burns and Matt McKay while Coe and Robbie Kruse made their debuts when they were introduced after half-time.

Tommy Oar and Neil Kilkeny also got some game time and while none set the world on fire, Osieck was pleased with how they responded to the challenge.

"I took the opportunity to give some game time to players that were not necessarily starters or they haven't been starters in previous games and I think they really took the opportunity very well," Osieck said. "I was happy with that and I gained a lot of impressions from that."

Neill was typically sound at the back, while Mile Jedinak and Carl Valeri did a good job of controlling possession in the first half but Osieck admitted Australia's front third still needed work.

The German kept faith in Scott McDonald, who led the line with a hard-working Brett Holman in behind, but the Middlesbrough striker again had no joy in front of goal to remain scoreless after 21 games for his country.

Australia's best chance of the first half fell to McKay in the 22nd minute from a sweet lay-off from McDonald, but the Brisbane Roar midfielder fired his first-time shot over the bar.

The impressive McKay was also involved in the second half flashing a header just wide in the dying minutes but the best Australia could muster otherwise was a handful of half-chances.

"It was a decent hit-out," defender Luke Wilkshire said. "The camp's just begun and we've got to work our way into the game against India."

Coe, who came on after half-time for Brad Jones as Osieck assessed his back-up keeping options, made several good reaction saves in a strong second-half performance as UAE mounted some late pressure.

Australia will head to Doha on Thursday to finalise preparations for the tournament.

Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
10th January 2011, 16.15			Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium (Al-Sadd), Doha, Qatar				Fine			18C		9783	
India..0 v. Australia..4													
half time, India..0 v. Australia..3													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Subrata Paul					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
12	DF	Deepak Kumar Mandal					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
5	DF	Anwar Ali					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
17	DF	Irungbam Surkumar Singh					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
7	MF	Naduparampil Pappachen Pradeep				61	7	MF	Brett Emerton				77
19	MF	Moirangthem Gouramangi Singh					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell	25			72
20	MF	Climax Lawrence (c)					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				62
23	MF	Steven Benedic Dias				79	5	MF	Jason Culina				
11	FW	Sunil Chhetri					3	MF	David Carney				
22	FW	Syed Rahim Nabi					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	11, 65			
18	FW	Mohammed Rafi Madambillath				63	14	FW	Brett Holman	45(+2)			
SUBSTITUTES													
15	FW	Bhaichung Bhutia					20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
6	MF	Baldeep Singh (Junior)					22	MF	Neil Kilkenny				
9	FW	Abhishek Yadav				63	11	MF	Nathan Burns				77
8	MF	Potsangbam Renedy Singh				79	23	FW	Robbie Kruse				
10	MF	Clifford Rayes Miranda					19	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
16	MF	Mehrajuddin Din Wadoo				61	18	GK	Bradley Jones				
2	DF	Moirangthem Govin Singh					9	FW	Scott McDonald				72
3	DF	Nanjangud Shivananju Manju					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
4	DF	Rakesh Masih					13	DF	Jade North				
14	DF	Mahesh Gawli					21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
21	GK	Subhasish Roy Chowdhury					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
13	GK	Gurpreet Singh Sandhu					17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				62
Team Coach		Bob Houghton					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Carmo Raul Fernandes					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Ali Hamad Madhad Saif Al-Badwawi (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 1		Saleh Mohamed Abdulla Hasan Al-Marzouqi (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 2		Yaser Ahmad M.A.A.Marad (Kuwait)											

match report from the AFC

Two goals from Tim Cahill saw Australia make a winning start to their AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 campaign with a 4-0 victory over India at Al Sadd Stadium on Monday.

Harry Kewell and Brett Holman also got on the score-sheet in a Group C encounter that Holgar Osieck's side dominated throughout in stark contrast to their Asian Cup debut four years ago, when Cahill's stoppage-time equaliser scraped a 1-1 draw with Oman.

It took Australia just 11 minutes to break the deadlock. Brett Emerton collected the ball in acres of space down the right and advanced into the box unchallenged before his low cross picked out the onrushing Cahill and the Everton forward side-footed home with ease inside the six-yard box.

India looked to reply and N.P.Pradeep saw a long-range effort easily held by Mark Schwarzer before Climax Lawrence shoot horribly wide when he had time and space on the edge of the box.

Cahill had a header ruled out for offside and Kewell fired straight at keeper Subrata Paul from Holman's lay-off before the Galatasaray midfielder doubled Australia's advantage in the 25th minute with a fine effort.

Picking up Luke Wilkshire's short pass, he turned and took a couple of steps before unleashing a swerving low drive with his left foot from 25 yards that found the far bottom corner beyond a diving Paul.

Cahill then somehow contrived to waste a golden opportunity for his second goal on the half-hour mark when a deflected shot fell into his path three yards out but with just the keeper to beat, his weak poke hit Paul and spun wide.

The Indian custodian then did well to tip Cahill's dipping 25-yard snap effort over the bar after he had brought down a long diagonal ball on his chest with aplomb before Australia extended their lead in first-half stoppage time when Holman met Emerton's cross ahead of Paul to nod in the third.

A slick Australia move ended with Cahill scuffing a shot wide of the far post nine minutes into the second period and Emerton was also off target as Australia continued to dominate.

Cahill eventually claimed his second and Australia's fourth when he rose highest to meet a free-kick from the right and planted a header into the far corner. Kewell then almost grabbed his second but a curling shot was just the wrong side of the post.

The game petered out after that although Sunil Chhetri threatened a late consolation for India but was unable to control a long ball over the top and Scharzer came out to smother as Bob Houghton's side were soundly beaten.

Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
14th January 2011, 16.15			Al-Gharafa Stadium, Doha, Qatar				Fine, windy			19C		15526	
Korea Republic..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, Korea Republic..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Jung Sung-Ryong					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Hwang Jae-Won					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
12	DF	Lee Young-Pyo					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski		43		
14	DF	Lee Jung-Soo					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				68
22	DF	Cha Du-Ri		23			3	MF	David Carney				
6	MF	Lee Yong-Rae					5	MF	Jason Culina				46
7	MF	Park Ji-Sung					7	MF	Brett Emerton		29		
13	MF	Koo Ja-Cheol	24			67	10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				
16	MF	Ki Sung-Yueng		35			15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak	62			
17	MF	Lee Chung-Yong					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill		90		
10	FW	Ji Dong-Won				67*	14	FW	Brett Holman				89
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Choi Hyo-Jin					9	FW	Scott McDonald				
4	DF	Cho Yong-Hyung					11	MF	Nathan Burns				
8	MF	Yoon Bit-Garam				89	12	GK	Nathan Coe				
9	FW	Yoo Byung-Soo				67*, 89	13	DF	Jade North				
11	FW	Son Heung-Min					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
15	DF	Hong Jeong-Ho					17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
18	MF	Kim Bo-Kyung					18	GK	Bradley Jones				
19	MF	Yeom Ki-Hun				67	19	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
20	FW	Kim Shin-Wook					20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
21	GK	Kim Yong-Dae					21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
23	GK	Kim Jin-Hyeon					22	MF	Neil Kilkenney				
							23	FW	Robbie Kruse				
Team Coach		Cho Kwang-Rae					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Cho Jun-Heon					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Abdulrahman Mohammed A.M.Hussain (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Mohammad Jaber A.H.Dharman (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hassan Rashid H.R.Althawadi (Qatar)											

match report from the AFC

Mile Jedinak's second-half goal saw Australia salvage a 1-1 draw with Korea Republic in their AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 encounter at Al Gharafa Stadium on Friday.

Koo Ja-cheol opened the scoring in the 24th minute to give the Koreans the lead in the clash of the Group C heavyweights but Jedinak pounced just after the hour mark to ensure honours ended even in an entertaining encounter.

Korea Republic will be the more aggrieved to only take a point though, having created enough clear-cut chances to win the game.

The first chance fell Harry Kewell's way after seven minutes when the ball broke to the midfielder in the box but he spooned his effort over the bar from close range.

Luke Wilkshire then shot straight at the Korean keeper Jung Sung-ryong from 20 yards in the 23rd minute after Jedinak's free-kick was blocked, before Korea took the lead shortly afterwards.

A long ball over the top was held up by Ji Dong-won in the box and he squared for Koo to rifle his third goal of the tournament past Mark Schwarzer and into the far corner.

Ji then forced Schwarzer into a reflex save after being fed by Lee Young-pyo before Kewell smashed a well-worked free-kick just over the bar.

Korea Republic came close to doubling their lead eight minutes before the break when Park Ji-sung's cross flicked off the head of Ji before hitting David Carney, who knew nothing about it, and the ball flew just wide.

Kewell pulled a low left-foot shot beyond the far post from the edge of the box before the South Koreans were indebted to some excellent defending from Cha Du-ri to preserve their lead.

Wilkshire's cross was dummed by Kewell and an unmarked Cahill looked certain to score only for Cha to get back and nick the ball away from the Everton striker with a perfectly-timed tackle.

Korea began the second period on the front foot and Koo shot straight at Schwarzer before Lee Jung-soo glanced Koo's cross narrowly over the bar.

The Australian keeper was called into action again on the hour mark as he turned away Park's angled drive after some neat skill from the Manchester United man.

The Socceroos drew level two minutes later, however. The Korean defence failed to deal with Wilkshire's corner from the right and after Lucas Neill dumped the ball back into the six-yard box, Jedinak out-jumped Jung to nod home the equaliser.

Ji drilled wide from the edge of the box and Schwarzer did well to get down and push away Ki Seung-yeung's close-range effort four minutes from time after Yeom Ki-hyun had nodded Lee Chung-yong's cross into the midfielder's path.

Asian Cup Finals, 1st. Round													
Date & Time		Venue				Weather		Temperature		Attendance			
18th January 2011, 16.15		Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium (Al-Sadd), Doha, Qatar				Rainy		17C		3919			
Bahrain..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, Bahrain..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mahmood Mansoor Ali Abdulla					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Abdulla Abdulrahman Al-Marzoogi					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
23	DF	Ebrahim Ali Hasan Meshkhas		81			6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
4	MF	Abdulla Baba Fatadi		65			13	DF	Jade North				80
7	MF	Hamad Rakea Humood Alanezi					7	MF	Brett Emerton		42		
13	MF	Mahmood Abdulrahman Mohamed Noor ("Ringo")				55	10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				76
14	MF	Salman Isa Ghuloom				90	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak	37			
15	MF	Abdulla Omar Ismail					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
18	MF	Abdulwahab Ali Abdulwahab Husain Alsafi		71			17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
8	FW	Jaycee John Okwunwanne		29		66	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				90
11	FW	Ismaeel Abdullatif Ismaeel Hasan					14	FW	Brett Holman		86		
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Rashed Khalil Ebrahim Talha Khalil Alhooti				55	3	MF	David Carney				
5	DF	Saleh Abdulhameed Saleh Mohamed Mahmeedi					9	FW	Scott McDonald				76
9	MF	Abdulwahab A Rahman Hedaib Isa Ali Almalood				90	12	GK	Nathan Coe				
10	DF	Waleed Mohamed Abdulla Ali Alhayam					18	GK	Bradley Jones				
16	DF	Dawood Saad Salman Mohamed Saad					19	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
19	MF	Mahmood Merza Mahdi Ahmed Alajmi					20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
20	FW	Abdulla Adnan Saleh Salman Aldakeel				66	21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
21	GK	Ahmed Ali Ahmed Ali Mushaima					22	MF	Neil Kilkenny				80
22	GK	Abbas Ahmed Ali Khamis Aal Tooq					23	FW	Robbie Kruse				90
Team Coach		Salman Ahmed Rashed Shareeda					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Abdulrazaq Mohamed Abbas Kamal					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Nishimura Yuichi (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Sagara Toru (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Naqi Toshiyuki (Japan)											

Sayed Mohammed Jaffer is also shown as Sayed Mohamed Jaafar Sabt Abbas, Said Ahmad Jaffer and Mohamed Al-Sayed Jaffer.

Abdulla Abdulrahman Al-Marzoogi is also shown as Abdulla Abdulrahman Mohamed Marzooq and Abdulla Al-Marzoogi. Salman Isa Ghuloom is also shown as Salman Isa Ghuloom Ali Hussain Ali Baba Mohammed is also shown as Husain Ali Hasan Ali Mohamed. Abdullah Omar Ismail is also shown as Abdulla Ismaeel Omar.

Ahmed Hassan Taleb is also shown as Ahmed Hassan Taleb Mohamed Rashed and Ahmed Hassan Talib.

match report from the AFC

Australia cemented their place in the quarter-finals of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 with a narrow 1-0 victory over Bahrain at Al Sadd Stadium on Tuesday.

Mile Jedinak scored the game's only goal - his second in as many games - to hand his side their second win of the tournament and ensure they finish top of Group C ahead of Korea Republic.

Both sides were clearly eager to get their noses in front early on as Brett Emerton swept a low shot just wide of the post after three minutes while Bahrain first threatened two minutes later when Hamad Rakea's shot flew over the crossbar.

But the rain that had been falling consistently throughout the day clearly had its effect on playing conditions and both sides struggled to create chances in the following minutes with Australia having to wait until the 18th minute to create their second chance when Tim Cahill's shot was wide of the left upright.

Bahrain went close in the 27th minute when Abdulla Fatadi's effort went over the crossbar just three minutes before Jedinak fired over in similar fashion at the other end. Mark Schwarzer was first called into action just after the half hour mark as Abdulla Fatadi made his way into the area before passing to Ismaeel Abdulatif, whose close-range shot was denied by the Fulham keeper. Harry Kewell brought out a save from Bahrain keeper Mahmood Mansoor soon after but Australia took the lead in the 37th minute when Jedinak embarked on a good run before sending a powerful shot from distance into the back of the net. Jedinak nearly doubled his side's advantage two minutes later but this time Mansoor was equal to his rasping drive. Seeing their qualification chances slipping away, Bahrain went on the attack in the second half and they should have levelled the scores five minutes after the break but Abdulatif's shot from point blank range was blocked by Schwarzer. The Socceroos could have had a second seven minutes into the second period when Kewell broke the offside trap before rounding Mansour but his cross was headed wide by Cahill despite the Everton marksman having the goal at his mercy. Schwarzer made another crucial intervention from a well-hit Abdulatif shot midway through the half, which proved to be the last real chance for the Bahrainis as Australia successfully closed out the remainder of the match to seal the victory.

Asian Cup Finals, Quarter Final													
Date & Time		Venue				Weather		Temperature		Attendance			
22nd January 2011, 16.25		Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium (Al-Sadd), Doha, Qatar				Good		20C		7889			
Iraq..0 v. Australia..1 (after extra time)													
half time, Iraq..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Mohammed Kassid Kadhim					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Bassim Abbas Gatea Al-Ogaili		84			2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)		115		
14	DF	Salam Shaker Ali Dad				75	6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
15	DF	Ali Hussein Rehema Al-Mutairi		54			8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
16	DF	Samal Saeed Mujbel					3	MF	David Carney		90		109
4	MF	Qusay Muneer Abboodi Al-Hussein					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell	118	118		
5	MF	Nashat Akram Abid Ali		1			15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak		68		
11	MF	Hawar Mulla Mohammed Taher				86	16	MF	Carl Valeri				
18	MF	Mahdi Kareem Ajeel				63	17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
7	FW	Emad Mohammed Ridha					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				90+2
10	FW	Younis Mahmoud Khalaf		43			14	FW	Brett Holman				102
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Ali Muttashar Naser Al-Lami					9	FW	Scott McDonald				90+2
2	DF	Mohammed Ali Kareem					11	FW	Nathan Burns				102
		Saad Abdulameer Luaibi Al-Zirjawi					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
6	MF	Samer Saeed Mujbel					13	DF	Jade North				
8	MF	Mustafa Kareem Abdullah				63	18	GK	Bradley Jones				
9	FW	Karrar Jassim Mohammed Al-Mahmoudi					19	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
13	MF	Alaa Abdul Zahrah Khashen Al-Azzawi				86	20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
17	FW	Ahmed Ayad Anwer					21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
19	MF	Muthanna Khalid Salih Al-Maslookhi					22	MF	Neil Kilkenney				109
20	MF	Ahmed Ibrahim Khalaf				75	23	FW	Robbie Kruse				
21	DF	Haider Raad Majeed											
22	GK	Saad Attiya Hafidh											
23	DF												
Team Coach		Wolfgang Sidka					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Abed-Alkhalig Masoud Ahmed					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Abdulrahman Mohammed A.M.Hussain (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Mohammad Jaber A.H.Dharman (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hassan Rashid H.R.Althawadi (Qatar)											

Bassim Abbas Gatea Al-Ogaili is also shown as Basem Abbas. Qusay Muneer Abboodi Al-Hussein is also shown as Qusai Munir. Younis Mahmoud Khalaf is also shown as Younus Mahmood Khalaf. Samer Saeed Mujbel is also shown as Samer Saeed Mejbil. Samal Saeed Mujbel is also shown as Samal Saeed Mejbil and Samer Saeed. Karrar Jassim Mohammed Al-Mahmoudi is also shown as Kerrar Muhammed. Salam Shaker Ali Dad is also shown as Salam Shakir Alidad. Emad Mohammed Ridha is also shown as Emad Mohammed Ridha Al Easeri and Emad Mohammed Raza Gharib. Hawar Mulla Mohammed Taher is also shown as Hawar Mohammed Taher Zeebari.

match report from the AFC

Harry Kewell proved the hero as his header deep into extra-time saw Australia edge out defending champions Iraq 1-0 at Al Sadd Stadium and book a place in the semi-finals of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011.

A game largely bereft of chances was settled in the 116th minute when Kewell got on the end of Matt McKay's deep cross from the left and steered a header past keeper Mohammed Kassid into the back of the net to set up a clash with Uzbekistan in the last four.

There was no doubting the effort and desire of both sides in the opening period but clear openings were hard to come by with defences firmly on top.

A poor header from Samal Saeed let in McKay after twenty-eight minutes but the midfielder unfortunately lifted the half-chance way over the bar before reigning AFC Player of the Year Sasa Oggenovski glanced David Carney's free-kick from the left flank wide nine minutes later.

Australia then managed to carve out two opportunities as half-time approached.

McKay latched onto a through ball but fired straight at Mohammed Kassid from the edge of the box before Kewell outmuscled Ali Rehaime as they as they contested Luke Wilkshire's deep delivery but with the Iraq keeper bearing down on him, the forward's attempted lob was too high.

Iraq had their best chance of the game so far in the 54th minute when Younus Mahmood's fine pass released Emad Mohammed and with Australia appealing for offside, he drove into the right side of the box before placing a shot across Mark Schwarzer but the wrong side of the far post.

Mile Jedinak's drive from distance was comfortably held by Kassid on the hour mark before Lucas Neill rose highest to meet McKay's corner on the far side of the box but his header was diverted straight at the Iraq keeper by Oggenovski.

Kassid held Cahill's header as Australia continued to test Iraq in the air but with limited success.

Brett Holman forced Kassid to push over his long-range effort with ten minutes to go as the Socceroos looked the more likely to grab a late winner but Schwarzer had to get down low to hold substitute Mustafa Kareem's header.

Kassid then kept out another Oggenovski header from a corner as normal time ended scoreless.

Australia came agonisingly close to taking the lead seven minutes into extra-time when Oggenovski's acrobatic overhead kick following a corner seemed destined for the back of the net only for Jedinak to head the ball over the bar from close range.

Nashat Akram saw a stinging low drive from the edge of the box fly just wide of Schwarzer's right post two minutes into the second period of additional time before Kewell netted the winner four minutes from the end. McKay's diagonal cross from the left picked out the forward's run in between two Iraq defenders and he beat Kassid with a clinical header to secure Australia's place in the last four.

Asian Cup Finals, Semi-Final													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
25th January 2011, 19.25			Khalifa Stadium, Doha, Qatar				Very good			19C		24826	
Uzbekistan..0 v. Australia..6													
half time, Uzbekistan..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Temur Oltiboevich Juraev					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
4	DF	Anzur Husanovich Ismailov					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
6	DF	Sakhob Juraev					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski	35			
7	MF	Azizbek Haydarov		67			8	DF	Luke Wilkshire		15		
8	MF	Server Resatovich Djeparov					3	MF	David Carney	65	71		
9	MF	Odil Alimzhanovich Ahmedov					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell	5			53
18	MF	Timur Takhirovich Kapadze					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
19	MF	Jasur Jumamurotovich Khasanov				55	16	MF	Carl Valeri	82	38		
22	MF	Victor Aleksandrovich Karpenko				71	17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
2	FW	Ulugbek Bakayev		67	67		4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				71
16	FW	Maksim Aleksandrovich Shatskikh				59	14	FW	Brett Holman				61
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Shavkat Mullajanov					7	MF	Brett Emerton	73			61
5	MF	Aziz Ibragimov				71	9	FW	Scott McDonald				
10	FW	Shavkat Salomov					11	FW	Nathan Burns				
11	MF	Marat Rifkatovich Bikmaev				55	12	GK	Nathan Coe				
12	GK	Ignatiy Mikhailovich Nesterov					13	DF	Jade North				
13	FW	Olim Navkarov					18	GK	Bradley Jones				
14	MF	Stanislav Andreev					19	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
15	FW	Alexander Rudolfovich Geynrikh					20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
17	FW	Sanzhar Atkhamovich Tursunov				59	21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
20	DF	Farrukh Nurlibaev					22	MF	Neil Kilkeny				71
21	GK	Murod Zukhurov					23	FW	Robbie Kruse	83			53
Team Coach		Abramov Vadim					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Talipdjanov Askar					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Ali Hamad Madhad Saif Albadowi (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 1		Saleh Mohamed Abdulla Hasan Al Marzouqi (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 2		Yaser A.M.A.Marad (Kuwait)											

Ulugbek Bakayev is also shown as Ulugbek Bakaev. Jasur Khasanov is also shown as Jasur Hasanov. Shavkat Mullajanov is also shown as Shavkatjon Mulladjanov. Sanzhar Tursunov is also shown as Sanjar Tursunov. Murod Zukhurov is also shown as Murotjon Zukhurov.

match report from the AFC

Australia reached their first AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 final in emphatic fashion as a 6-0 win over Uzbekistan at Khalifa Stadium set up a meeting with Japan.

Harry Kewell and AFC Player of the Year Sasa Ognenovski had given Holger Osieck's side a useful half-time lead and David Carney effectively sealed the last-four contest in the 65th minute before Ulugbaek Bakaev was sent-off two minutes later after collecting his second yellow card.

Holger Osieck's men then ruthlessly exploited their numerical superiority as Brett Emerton, Carl Valeri and Robbie Kruse all found the back of the net.

Emerton was on the bench for Australia having missed the quarter-final win over Iraq through suspension, while Ignatiy Nesterov and Alexander Geynrikh were left out of Uzbekistan's line-up after picking up injuries in their last-eight clash against Jordan.

It did not take long for Nesterov's replacement Temur Juraev to be called into action when Brett Holman met Tim Cahill's cross at the back post with a first-time volley that the keeper turned behind for a corner. Australia broke the deadlock soon after, however. Matt McKay fed Kewell on the left side of the box and the forward took a couple of steps forward before rifling a low shot across Juraev and into the far corner. Maksim Shatskikh curled a free-kick beyond Mark Schwarzer's far post before Australia almost grabbed a second goal on the half-hour mark when Carney intercepted a pass just inside his own half and the left-back burst forward down the wing but as he tried to chip Juraev the keeper got a hand to the ball before Uzbekistan cleared.

They doubled their lead three minutes later, though, and Carney was again involved. The defender's floated free-kick from the left was knocked down by Tim Cahill among a crowd of bodies and Ognenovski was quickest to react to the loose ball to rifle home from seven yards as Australia went in at the break with a two-goal cushion.

Juraev almost cost his side a third goal in the 58th minute but Anzur Ismailov managed to scramble away his under-hit pass before Australia effectively killed off the tie seven minutes later.

McKay was again the architect, playing in Carney down the left-side of the box and he slipped a finish under the body of the advancing keeper.

Odil Akhmedov's mazy run into the box brought a smart save out of Schwarzer before Uzbekistan's task became even harder when Bakaev - the two goal hero of the quarter-final - was sent off after picking up a second yellow card for a late challenge on Luke Wilkshire.

Kruse released Emerton but Juraev produced a good save to deny him before the midfielder got on the score-sheet in the 73rd minute as Wilkshire's long ball caught out the Uzbek defence and Kruse squared for him to slide into the empty net.

Australia were running rampant and Juraev did well to block Kruse's shot from inside the box when the striker had time and space before Valeri added the fifth goal with nine minutes to go when McKay cut the ball back from the byline for the midfielder to slam home from a yard out.

It was 6-0 almost immediately when Kruse won the ball in the centre-circle beat a defender and saw his weak shot slip through Juraev's grasp to complete a one-sided triumph.

Asian Cup Finals, Final													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
29th January 2011, 18.00			Khalifa Stadium, Doha, Qatar				Very good			20C		37174	
Japan..1 v. Australia..0 (after extra time)													
half time, Japan..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Eiji Kawasima					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
4	DF	Yasuyuki Konno					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
5	DF	Yuto Nagatomo					6	DF	Sasa Ognetovski				
6	DF	Atsuto Uchida				120	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
22	DF	Maya Yoshida					3	MF	David Carney				
7	MF	Yasuhito Endo					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				103
14	MF	Jungo Fujimoto				56	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
17	MF	Makoto Hasebe					16	MF	Carl Valeri		16		
18	MF	Keisuke Honda					17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay		112		
9	FW	Ashinji Okazaki					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				109
11	FW	Ryoichi Maeda				98	14	FW	Brett Holman		39		65
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Masahiko Inoha				120	7	MF	Brett Emerton				65
3	DF	Daiki Iwamasa				56	9	FW	Scott McDonald				
12	DF	Ryota Moriwaki					11	FW	Nathan Burns				
13	MF	Hajime Hosogai					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
15	MF	Takuya Honda					13	DF	Jade North				
16	MF	Yosuke Kashiwagi					18	GK	Bradley Jones				
19	FW	Tadanari Lee	109			98	19	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
20	DF	Mitsuru Nagata					20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
21	GK	Shusaku Nishikawa					21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
23	GK	Shuichi Gonda					22	MF	Neil Kilkenney				109
							23	FW	Robbie Kruse				103
Team Coach		Alberto Zaccheroni					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Naoki Tsumura					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Rafael Ilyasov (Uzbekistan)											

match report from the AFC

Japan became the first team to win the AFC Asian Cup four times as Tadanari Lee's goal in the second period of extra time clinched a 1-0 victory over Australia at Khalifa Stadium.

Lee struck after 108 minutes of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 final when he volleyed home Yuto Nagatomo's left-wing cross.

Australia though, had their chances to claim a maiden continental triumph and will reflect on Harry Kewell's second-half miss when one-on-one with Japan keeper Eiji Kawashima as particularly crucial.

The Socceroos had the game's first opportunity when following a slick move, Carl Valeri fed Matt McKay but he sliced wide of the far post.

Mark Schwarzer then almost presented Japan with the opener when he tried to prevent the ball going behind for a corner but only succeeded in kicking it straight to Nagatomo but the defender's long-range effort sailed over the bar with David Carney scrambling back to cover.

McKay's neat backheel released Brett Holman down the right but nobody could get on the end of the winger's fizzing low cross before Japan keeper Eiji Kawashima did well to push Kewell's close-range header away in the 18th minute after Tim Cahill had met Carney's corner on the far side of the box.

Kewell then guided Luke Wilkshire's cross from the right over the bar before the striker was off target from a narrow angle when he latched on to Cahill's knockdown from Neill's diagonal ball just after the half-hour mark. Ryoichi Maeda was presented with a sight of goal nine minutes before the interval after Yasuhito Endo had laid-off Keisuke Honda's incisive pass into the forward's path but he fired over from just outside the box as the first-half ended goalless.

Australia came agonisingly close to taking the lead two minutes after the break when, after Kawashima misjudged Wilkshire's cross, the ball hit the bar and then Cahill but bounced up into Maya Yoshida's chest on the line as Japan cleared.

Kewell lashed over from inside the six-yard box before Japan almost broke the deadlock in the 65th minute when Nagatomo created a yard of space before delivering a beautiful left-foot cross that Shinji Okazaki glanced just the wrong side of the post with Schwarzer rooted to the spot.

Kewell then spurned the best chance of the game six minutes later when he latched onto a long ball and raced clear on goal but Kawashima denied him with an outstretched right leg.

The Japan keeper was alert to save at Kewell's feet after Yasuyuki Konno under-hit a backpass and Carney saw a shot inside the box deflected over the bar late on as normal time ended goalless.

Australia had two opportunities in quick succession in the first period of extra time. First, McKay played in Kewell but the ball broke to Brett Emerton, who curled a left-foot shot just wide.

Substitute Robbie Kruse then almost made an immediate impact but his header from Emerton's cross was clawed away by a desperate Kawashima from under the bar.

The winning goal finally came after 108 minutes when Nagatomo surged down the left and his cross picked out Lee unmarked eight yards from goal. The substitute waited for the ball to drop before executing a left-foot volley that gave Schwarzer no chance as it found the back of the net.

The Australian keeper then held Endo's free-kick before Carney struck a set-piece into the wall from just outside the area as Japan clung on for a famous victory.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
29th March 2011, 20.45			Borussia Park, Mönchengladbach, Germany				Fine					30152	
Germany..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Germany..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Tim Wiese					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Arne Friedrich					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
5	DF	Mats Hummels					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
2	DF	Marcel Schmelzer					3	DF	David Carney	61			
15	MF	Christian Träsch		88			8	DF	Luke Wilkshire	64(pk)			
7	MF	Bastian Schweinsteiger (c)				64	16	MF	Carl Valeri				
21	MF	Sven Bender					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak		17		
10	FW	Lukas Podolski					10	MF	Harold "Harry" Kewell				80
9	FW	André Schürrle					17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay		45		
23	FW	Mario Gomez	26			72	7	MF	Brett Emerton				
13	FW	Thomas Müller				65	14	MF	Brett Holman				89
SUBSTITUTES													
18	MF	Toni Kroos				64	23	FW	Robbie Kruse				80
11	FW	Miroslav Klose		89		72	9	FW	Brent McGrath				89
19	MF	Mario Götze				65	21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain				
14	DF	Holger Badstuber					22	MF	Neil Kilkeny				
4	DF	Dennis Aogo						MF	James Holland				
1	GK	Manuel Neuer					19	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				
17	DF	Per Mertesacker					20	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
20	DF	Jérôme Boateng					29	MF	Adam Sarota				
	GK	René Adler											
Team Coach		Joachim Löw					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Stéphane Lannoy (France)											
Assistant Referee 1		Eric Dansault (France)											
Assistant Referee 2		Michael Annonier (France)											

match report from Kicker

Der zweite Anzug passt nicht: Die personell arg durcheinandergewürfelte DFB-Auswahl unterlag Australien im Borussia Park unglücklich mit 1:2. Im ersten Durchgang nutzte die Löw-Elf eine der wenigen Chancen gegen körperbetont agierende, aber weitgehend harmlose Socceroos. Wie aus dem Nichts stellte das Team aus "Down Under" den Spielverlauf nach einer guten Stunde auf den Kopf und ließ danach nichts mehr anbrennen.

Bundestrainer Joachim Löw schonte im Vergleich zum 4:0 gegen Kasachstan in der EM-Qualifikation nahezu alle Stammkräfte und tauschte bis auf Schweinsteiger, Müller und Podolski acht Akteure aus: Für Neuer, Lahm, Mertesacker, Badstuber, Aogo, Schweinsteiger, Khedira, Özil, Podolski und Klose rückten Wiese, Träsch, Hummels, Friedrich, Schmelzer, Debütant Sven Bender, Schürrle und Gomez ins Team.

Bei Australien vertraute der deutsche Coach Holger Osieck auf Routinier Schwarzer (Fulham) im Tor, Dortmunds Langerak blieb nur die Bank. Bei der Neuauflage des WM-Vorrundenspiels, das die DFB-Elf mit 4:0 gewonnen hatte, hatten zudem die Namen Neill (Galatasaray Istanbul) Holmann (Alkmaar), Emerton (Blackburn Rovers) und Kewell (Galatasaray) internationalen Klang, mit Evertons Cahill fehlte aber auch eine wichtige Korsettstange.

Die deutsche Auswahl tat sich zu Beginn sehr schwer, ins Spiel zu kommen. Die vielen Personalwechsel gepaart mit vielen Ungenauigkeiten im Passspiel sowie resolutem Zweikampfverhalten der gut sortierten Australier ließen den Motor der Löw-Elf gehörig stottern. Torszenen blieben aber auch wegen fehlenden Tempos vor einer wenig euphorischen Kulisse Mangelware, die erste lieferten gar die Gäste in Person von Holman per Volleyschuss (19.).

Die Socceroos traten in den direkten Duellen weiterhin körperbetont auf, woraus viele Freistöße resultierten, aus diesen aber zunächst keine Torgefahr. Erst Podolskis Direktversuch aus 25 Metern einen Meter am Winkel vorbei bedeutete die erste nennenswerte Möglichkeit der Löw-Schützlinge (24.).

Diese Szene war aber gleichzeitig Initialzündung für Ersatz-Kapitän Schweinsteiger & Co., die nun vorübergehend schneller kombinierten. Zu schnell für die Gäste-Abwehr, als es im Direktspiel durch die Mitte ging: Müller finterte nach Benders Pass geschickt, der quirlige Schürrle spitzelte den Ball am Strafraum quer zu Gomez, der nicht lange fackelte und von der Strafraumgrenze hoch ins linke Eck einschoss (26.).

Das Team aus "Down Under" konnte das Geschehen gegen die etwas zurücksteckende Nationalelf in der Folge nahezu ausgeglichen gestalten, blieb aber bis auf einen Kopfball Jedinaks nach einer Ecke (43.) weitgehend harmlos.

Ohne personelle Wechsel kamen die Teams aus der Kabine zurück. Podolski's Flugkopfball Sekunden nach Wiederanpfiff ließ auf mehr Kurzweil als im chancenarmen ersten Abschnitt hoffen, war aber leider nur ein Strohfeder. Zu selten zog die Nationalelf gegen etwas mutigere, aber nach wie vor offensiv limitierte Gäste das Tempo an. Lediglich Podolski setzte sich noch einmal vielversprechend in Szene (58.), ehe sich die Partie überraschend binnen dreier Minuten drehte: Zunächst sah die deutsche Hintermannschaft nicht gut aus, als sich Carney halblinks offensiv einschaltete und frei vor Wiese den Ausgleich erzielte (61.). Und wenig später schenkte Referee Lannoy den Socceroos auch noch einen Elfmeter, als sich Kewell bei Träsch einhängte und zu Fall kam - Wilkshire verwandelte humorlos (64.). Nun brachte Löw neues Personal. Kroos und Götze ersetzen Schweinsteiger und Müller, wenig später kam noch Klose für Gomez. Die Löw-Schützlinge zogen das Tempo wieder an. Götze steckte prima durch zu Schürrle, der knapp an Schwarzer scheiterte (69.). Die beste Möglichkeit zum Ausgleich hatte Klose, der Ognjenovski locker übersprintete, dann aber den Ball bedrängt vom Australier frei vor Schwarzer rechts vorbeischieb (78.). Mehr passierte nicht mehr, Deutschland kassierte trotz aller Bemühungen die dritte Heimgniederlage in der Ära Jochim Löw.

A loose translation is:-

The second choice was not good enough: The management were unhappy with a badly disorganised DFB team that was defeated 1-2 by Australia at Borussia Park. In the first half the Löw-eleven took advantage of one of the few chances against a physical but largely harmless Socceroos. After an hour and, out of nowhere, the team from "Down Under" turned the score upside down and did not allow any change after that. Germany coach Joachim Löw has compared the game to the 4-0 win against Kazakhstan in the European Championship qualifier where nearly all regulars were exchanged except Schweinsteiger, Müller and Podolski. Eight players: Neuer, Lahm, Mertesacker, Badstuber, Aogo, Khedira, Özil, and Klose were replaced by Wiese, Träsch, Hummels, Friedrich, Schmelzer, debutant Sven Bender, Schürrle and Gomez. For the Australian team, the German coach Holger Osieck, used the veteran Schwarzer (Fulham) in goal, while Dortmund's Langerak remained on the bench. Other names with international experience that also appeared in the World Cup qualifying round (2010), which the DFB-eleven won 4-0, were Neill (Galatasaray Istanbul), Holman (Alkmaar), Emerton (Blackburn Rovers) and Kewell (Galatasaray), but Everton's Cahill was an important absentee. The German team tried very hard to make the play at the beginning. However, the many personnel changes coupled with many inaccuracies in the passing game and resolute tackles from the well-organised Australians made the Löw-Eleven engine stall. Chances at goal were also few due to the lack of pace up front and excitement was scarce, the first opportunity was delivered by the guests from a volley by Holman (19th minute). The Socceroos continued with close marking, from which there were many free kicks but no threats on goal resulted. Podolski's attempt from 25 meters went one metre past the angle and was the first noteworthy chance of the Löw protégés (24th minute). That scenario was the spark for temporary captain Schweinsteiger and company to combine faster. It was too fast for the guests defence with direct play through the middle: Müller gave a feint from Benders pass and sent a dangerous low cross to the lively Schürrle at the near post, the ball transversed to Gomez, whose first-time shot went high into the left corner (26th minute). The team from "Down Under" almost equalised against the national team debut defence after a header by Jedinak from a corner (43 min.) but they were to a great extent harmless. The team came back from the dressing room without any personnel changes. Podolski's diving header seconds after the restart led us to briefly believe in an improvement after a poor first half, but unfortunately it was only a flash in the pan. Too rarely did the national team try something adventurous but they still limited the offensive pace of the guests. Podolski again had a promising play (58th minute) before the game surprisingly, within three minutes, turned: First, the German back line were disorganised, and left half Carney aggressively intervened and equalized easily beating Wiese (61th minute), and a little later referee Lannoy gave the Socceroos a penalty, when Träsch brought down Kewell - Wilkshire converted without fuss (64th minute). Now Löw brought on new staff. Kroos and Götze replaced Schweinsteiger and Müller, a little later Klose came on for Gomez. The Löw protégés raised the pace again. Götze put a great pass through to Schürrle, who narrowly failed to beat Schwarzer (69th minute). The best opportunity to equalise came when Klose easily out-sprinted Ognjenovski, but the Australian harassed him before Schwarzer pushed the ball past (78th minute). Nothing more happened, Germany conceded despite all their efforts, the third home defeat in the Jochim Löw era.

match report from FFA

Australia overcame a one goal deficit at half-time to defeat Germany 2-1 in an International Friendly at Borussia-Park, Mönchengladbach, Germany. The win is Australia's first in four attempts as they avenge their loss to the Germans in the 2010 World Cup. Two second half goals in the space of three minutes from David Carney and a penalty from Luke Wilkshire were enough to cancel out Mario Gomez's first half goal. Germany, who were without captain Philipp Lahm and Real Madrid pair Mesut Ozil and Sami Khedira, controlled the match from the start and threatened the Australian defence early in the game. Lukas Podolski came close to giving Germany the lead from a free kick in the 21st minute but the deadlock was broken in the 26th minute. A neat move in the middle of the park set up Mario Gomez at the top of the penalty box before firing his shot beyond Schwarzer's reach to give Germany the lead. Australia had their best chance of the half from a Jedinak header off a corner but goalkeeper Tim Wiese was on hand to give Germany the lead heading to the break. Having had 56% of possession in the first half, Germany started the second half the way they ended the first and almost doubled their lead. The game looked certain to go Germany's way until the 61st minute. Socceroos passed the ball around the midfield which created an opportunity on the left. A confusion in defence by Germany allowed David Carney to pick up a loose ball to slot home the equaliser. From the kick off, Socceroos kept the ball in attack and the referee had no choice but to point to the spot after Harry Kewell was tripped in the box. Wilkshire stepped up and drove his spotkick hard and low to give the Socceroos the well deserved lead. Germany brought on Miroslav Klose to give them the height advantage and he almost put Germany back into the game. Through on goal and with only Schwarzer to beat, Sasa Ognjenovski made a crucial tackle as Klose's shot went off target. Australia defended well in the final minutes of the game to record a historic win against the world number three in Germany.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
5th June 2011, 17.00			Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, South Australia				Rain					21281	
Australia..3 v. New Zealand..0													
half time, Australia..1 v. New Zealand..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Nathan Cole					1	GK	Glen Moss				77
3	DF	Michael Zullo				70	4	DF	Benjamin "Ben" Sigmund		90+2		
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				46*	15	DF	Andrew "Andy" Boyens				46
20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					16	DF	Michael Boxall				
21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain					8	MF	Timothy "Tim" Brown (c)				85
7	MF	Brett Emerton (c)				46	14	MF	Michael McGlinchey				56
14	MF	Brett Holman				46**	9	FW	Shane Smeltz				
16	MF	Carl Valeri				65	10	FW	Christopher "Chris" Killen				
19	MF	Neil Kilkeny					11	FW	Konstantinos "Kosta" Barbarouses				
9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy	9, 59	51		60	20	FW	Christopher "Chris" Wood				63
11	FW	James Troisi	90+3(pk)				22	FW	Jeremy Brockie		50		
SUBSTITUTES													
17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				70	12	GK	Mark Paston				
22	MF	Dario Vidošić				46	18	GK	Jacob "Jake" Gleeson				77
5	DF	Rhys Williams				46*	2	DF	Winston Reid				
10	FW	Alex Brosque				60	3	DF	Tony Lochhead				
23	FW	Robbie Kruse				46**	5	DF	Ivan Vicelich				
13	MF	Mark Milligan				65	7	MF	Simon Elliott				
1	GK	Adam Federici					13	DF	Michael Fitzgerald				46
2	DF	Lucas Neill					17	MF	Aaron Clapham				63
6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski					19	MF	Marco Rojas				56
24	GK	Mitchell Langerak					21	MF	Craig Henderson				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					23	DF	David Mulligan				85
							24	DF	Thomas "Tommy" Smith				
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Ricki Herbert				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Brian Turner				
Referee		Minoru Tojo (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Akane Yagi (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hideaki Nishio (Japan)											

match report from the FFA

The Qantas Socceroos have recorded a 3-0 victory over New Zealand in the International Friendly played at Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

Two goals from Josh Kennedy and an injury time converted penalty by James Troisi gave the Qantas Socceroos a win in their first match at the Adelaide Oval since 1958.

With Lucas Neill starting on the bench, Brett Emerton was given the responsibility of leading the Qantas Socceroos. He almost put the Qantas Socceroos ahead in the 5th minute but his shot went inches wide from goal.

It took only 10 minutes before the Qantas Socceroos to open the scoring. New Zealand's goalkeeper Glenn Moss made a mess of Jeremy Brockie's back pass and Josh Kennedy was on hand to pick up the loose ball to slot it into the empty net for the opening goal of the match.

New Zealand had difficulty finding their feet in the first half as the Qantas Socceroos dominated the half with Michael Zullo and James Troisi combining well on the left to create attacking opportunities.

Qantas Socceroos coach Holger Osieck made three changes at half-time. Robbie Kruse, Dario Vidosic and Rhys Williams came on for Brett Holman, Brett Emerton and Luke Wilkshire.

The heavy rain did not deter the Qantas Socceroos as they increased their lead in the 59th minute. From a resulting corner, Kennedy out jumped the New Zealand defence to head home his second and Qantas Socceroos second goal of the night.

New Zealand's night of misery was completed in injury time when Robbie Kruse was brought down in the box. James Troisi placed his spot-kick beyond the reach of substitute goalkeeper, Jack Gleeson to give the Qantas Socceroos a 3-0 victory in the trans-Tasman match.

The Qantas Socceroos will play Serbia in an International Friendly at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne on Tuesday.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
7th June 2011, 19.30			Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria (Docklands Stadium)				Fine (Roof closed)					28149	
Australia..0 v. Serbia..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. Serbia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Adam Federici					1	GK	Damir Kahrman				
2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				57	5	DF	Slobodan Rajković				65
3	DF	Michael Zullo				46	6	DF	Nenad Tomović		45		75
6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski					16	DF	Ivan Obradović				
8	DF	Luke Wilshire				57**	19	DF	Milan Vilotić				
7	MF	Brett Emerton				57*	8	MF	Adem Ljajić				65*
14	MF	Brett Holman					10	MF	Dejan "Deki" Stanković (c)				84
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak		72		74	15	MF	Radoslav Petrović				
16	MF	Carl Valeri		56			22	MF	Zdravko Kuzmanović				65**
17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay					7	FW	Zoran Tošić				89
4	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				65	11	FW	Jovan Damjanović				
SUBSTITUTES													
21	DF	Jonathan "Jon" McKain		85		57	23	GK	Željko Brkić				
11	FW	James Troisi				46	30	GK	Bojan Šaranov				
23	FW	Robbie Kruse				65	4	DF	Milan Biševac				75
22	MF	Dario Vidošić				57*	13	MF	Marko Mirić				89
5	DF	Rhys Williams				57**	17	FW	Ranko Despotović				65*
19	MF	Neil Kilkenney				74	18	MF	Branislav Jovanović				84
18	GK	Nathan Cole					20	DF	Neven Subotić				65
24	GK	Mitchell Langerak					21	MF	Veseljko Trivunović				65**
10	FW	Alex Brosque					26	MF	Dušan Petronijević				
13	MF	Mark Milligan					28	DF	Pavle Ninkov				
20	DF	Matthew Spiranovic											
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Vladimir Petrovic				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Minoru Tojo (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Akane Yagi (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hideaki Nishio (Japan)											

match report from the FFA

The Qantas Socceroos and Serbia have played out a high quality 0-0 draw at Etihad Stadium on Tuesday.

Qantas Socceroos coach Holger Osieck made six changes to the team that started against New Zealand with Lucas Neill returning as captain and Archie Thompson making his Qantas Socceroos appearance after a sixteen month absence.

Adam Federici had an outstanding game at the back, making numerous saves to prevent Serbia from breaking the deadlock while Brett Holman was lively in attack, creating opportunities for the Qantas Socceroos. Both teams started the match well and were unlucky not to be a goal up before half-time. Mile Jedinak first tested the Serbian goalkeeper with his free kick from outside the box in the 30th minute before a cheeky flick from Thompson in the 37th minute put Holman through on the right. Holman's cross found Jedinak but his shot was deflected out for a corner.

Five minutes from half-time, Adem Ljajic missed a golden opportunity in front of goal. A weak clearance from the Qantas Socceroos defence presented Ljajic with an open goal but the 19-year-old blasted over the bar. Serbia started the second-half the way they ended the first as Federici was called into action twice early in the second-half.

He dived bravely at the feet of Zoran Tosic who was through on goal for the first before saving Ljajic's long shot.

Both coaches made changes to the team in search for the winner and substitute James Troisi almost made the difference in the 79th minute. After being put through on goal by Holman, Troisi was left one-on-one with goalkeeper Damir Kahrman but his shot went straight to the goalkeeper.

In the end, the draw was a fair result for both teams as the Qantas Socceroos concluded their two International Friendly match with a 3-0 win against New Zealand and a 0-0 draw with Serbia.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
10th August 2011, 19.45			Cardiff City Stadium, Cardiff, Wales				Overcast					6378	
Wales..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Wales..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Wayne Hennessey					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
2	DF	Christopher "Chris" Gunter				63	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
3	DF	Neil Taylor					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
5	DF	Daniel "Danny" Gabbidon				46	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				46*
6	DF	Ashley Williams					14	DF	Michael Zullo		56		83
4	MF	David Vaughan				71	7	MF	Brett Emerton				46
9	MF	Joseph "Joe" Ledley					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
10	MF	Aaron Ramsey (c)				46*	17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
7	FW	Robert Earnshaw				63*	19	MF	Neil Kilkenny				
8	FW	Craig Bellamy					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	44			70
11	FW	Gareth Bale					9	FW	Scott McDonald				90
SUBSTITUTES													
12	GK	Boaz Myhill					5	DF	Rhys Williams				46
13	DF	Neal Eardley					11	FW	James Troisi				70
14	MF	Jack Collison				46*	12	GK	Adam Federici				
15	DF	Daniel "Danny" Collins					13	MF	Adam Sarota				83
16	DF	Adam Matthews				63	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				90
17	FW	Thomas "Hal" Robson-Kanu					20	DF	Luke Devere				
18	FW	Steven "Steve" Morison				63*	23	FW	Robbie Kruse	60			46*
19	MF	Andrew "Andy" King											
20	MF	Owain Tudur-Jones											
21	DF	Darcy Blake	83			46							
22	MF	Joseph "Joe" Allen				71							
Team Coach								Team Coach		Holger Osieck			
Team Manager		Gary Speed						Team Manager					
Referee		Kristo Tohver (Estonia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Hannes Reinvald (Estonia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Neeme Neemlaid (Estonia)											

match report from the FFA

The Qantas Socceroos have tuned up for the FIFA 2014 World Cup Asian qualifiers with a slick 2-1 victory over Wales in Cardiff.

Tim Cahill's crisp volley in the 44th minute and a neat Robbie Kruse finish in the 60th minute were fair rewards for some beautiful passing and clever build-up by the Qantas Socceroos.

Darcy Blake reduced the arrears for Wales with a header in the 82nd minute, setting up a tense finish, but the Welsh rarely bothered the Australian defence.

Lucas Neill and Matthew Spiranovic were resolute in the middle, while Michael Zullo was outstanding at left full back.

Qantas Socceroos coach Holger Osieck praised his players for the impressive away win against a team featuring the English Premier League PFA Player of the Year Gareth Bale of Spurs, prolific EPL striker Craig Bellamy and Arsenal's rising star Aaron Ramsey.

"The win is very important because it builds confidence for the World Cup qualifiers, but I was also happy to see the players come together again after their off-season and play with cohesion," said Osieck.

"We introduced a few players in new positions as well and produced good football despite the changes. However, this is only a warm up for the important game against Thailand in Brisbane."

Osieck was also impressed at Michael Zullo's performance in shutting down Bellamy in the first half and Bale in the second half.

"I think it was a maximum test. He got an impression of what was required on the standard of play and we have to face it," said Osieck. "Wales have a couple of excellent individuals and they play in top clubs in the Premiership and I knew it would be a tough game but as a group we responded well."

Brett Emerton now sits equal second for all-time appearances for the Qantas Socceroos after making his 87th appearance in Cardiff.

However, Emerton's night was cut short when he was substituted at half time with a stomachache upset. Luke Wilkshire also left the game at the interval due to a rib injury, which was painful enough to hamper the full back, but is not considered serious.

Tim Cahill scored his 24th goal in 53 internationals and appeared refreshed after a quiet off-season. Robbie Kruse now has two goals from eight appearances.

The match was a milestone for Adam Sarota, who made his full international debut when he came on as a sub in the final ten minutes.

Luke Wilkshire came close to opening the scoring for the Qantas Socceroos in the 35th minute. He collected a pass on the right side of midfield before unleashing a thirty yard shot that came off the post.

Wales were however unable to prevent Australia from breaking the deadlock just before half time. Matt McKay and Neil Kilkenny exchanged passes in the middle of the park before releasing the ball to Wilkshire on the right flank. Wilkshire's cross was met by Tim Cahill's volley to give Australia a one goal advantage going into the break.

Holger Osieck made two changes at half time bringing on Rhys Williams and Kruse for Wilkshire and Emerton. Kruse made an immediate impact when his shot in the 50th minute was saved by goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey. Valeri was the first to the rebound but his shot hit the woodwork.

The Qantas Socceroos extended their lead ten minutes later from a great build up in midfield. Cahill, Kruse and Scott McDonald linked up well before McDonald's low cross was parried by Hennessey onto the feet of Kruse. Kruse made no mistake to slot the ball into the empty net.

Wales pulled a goalback in the 83rd minute from a corner. The unmarked Darcy headed the ball beyond the reach of Mark Schwarzer to give Wales a chance at a comeback. Bale had one last opportunity in the 89th minute but his goal bound shot was headed away by Matthew Spiranovic.

World Cup, 3rd. Qualifying Round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
2nd. September 2011, 20.00			Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland			Clear, cold			12C		24540		
Australia..2 v. Thailand..1													
half time, Australia..0 v. Thailand..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					18	GK	Sinthaweechai Hathairattanakool				
2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)					2	DF	Niweat Siriwong				
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire					4	DF	Chonlatit Jantakam				
22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					7	MF	Datsakorn Thonglao				
7	MF	Brett Emerton				79	11	MF	Rangsan Vivatchaichok	85			
14	MF	Brett Holman				90+1	12	MF	Adul Lahso				
16	MF	Carl Valeri		35			15	MF	Surat Sukha				79
17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay		65			17	MF	Supachai Komsilp		88		
19	MF	Neil Kilkeny					20	MF	Jakkraprom Kaewprom				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				71	10	FW	Teersil Dangda	15			
9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy	58				14	FW	Sompong Soleb				56
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Michael Zullo					1	GK	Sivaruk Tedsungnoen				
5	DF	Rhys Williams					5	DF	Suttinun Phukhom				56
6	DF	Sasa Ogrenovski					6	MF	Piyapol Buntao				
10	FW	Alex Brosque	86			79	8	MF	Suchao Nutnum				
11	FW	James Troisi				90+1	9	FW	Sarayuth Chaikamdee				
12	GK	Adam Federici					13	FW	Chatree Chintalay				
13	MF	Adam Sarota					16	MF	Arthit Sunthornphit				79
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					19	DF	Phaitoon Tiebma				
18	GK	Nathan Coe					21	DF	Teerathorn Boonmathan				
20	DF	Luke Devere					22	MF	Pokklao Anan				
21	DF	Mark Milligan											
23	FW	Robbie Kruse				71							
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Winfried Schafer				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager		Suppoj Samart				
Referee		Abdullah Dor Mohammad Balideh (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Waleed Sultan Al-Mannai (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Ramzan Saeed Al-Ramazani (Qatar)											

match report from the FFA

The Qantas Socceroos have got their World Cup qualification campaign underway on a positive note, securing a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Thailand thanks to a late winner from Alex Brosque.

The Qantas Socceroos dominated ball possession and had a constant flow of opportunities, but the injury-depleted War Elephants defended staunchly and held a lead from the time Teerasil Dangda scored in the 15th minute to the time Josh Kennedy equalised in the 58th minute.

The Thais looked certain to hold on for a hard-fought draw, but Australia snatched the victory when Brosque poked the ball into the back of the net after Josh Kennedy brought down a cross from Matt McKay.

After showing so much promise in their recent 2-1 win over Wales, Australia's follow-up performance against the world no. 120 did not meet expectations.

For Thailand, stand-in keeper Sinthaweechai Hathairattanakool had a commendable performance between the sticks, limiting the damage to just two goals despite facing more than fifty penalty-area entries.

Australia's marquee goal-scorer Tim Cahill was involved in plenty of goal-front action, and racked up the shots on target, but he was let down by his last-touch execution.

The Qantas Socceroos, installed as massive favourites with the bookies, began as most would have expected, controlling possession and working patiently for aerial opportunities from in-swinging crosses.

Hathairattanakool was called on to make a series of handles in the opening ten minutes, but the home side failed to inject venom into any of their early attempts.

While Australia were dominating possession and field position, the War Elephants were first on the board, scoring from an ambitious counterattack at the quarter-hour mark.

Neil Kilkeny had his pass intercepted in Australia's attacking half and the visitors went breaking away, pushing wide to Jakkaphan Kaewprom, who played the perfect cross for Dangda to volley past Schwarzer.

Brett Holman had Australia's best chance of the first half in the 23rd minute, but after finding space in the area, his shot lacked the force to beat the diving Thailand stopper.

Valeri was the first to be shown a card, earning a yellow in the 35th minute.

The Qantas Socceroos returned from the major interval still dominating the possession count, and after Kennedy missed his first opportunity, he made amends with his second. Kilkeny played McKay in for a shot from the edge of the area and when Hathairattanakool failed to control the powerful, left-foot strike, Kennedy was on hand to tap in the rebound. Cahill looked to have finally forced his way into the scorers' book in the 62nd minute, but he was ruled to have fouled the opposition keeper in his leap to head the ball, and was replaced with Robbie Kruse shortly after.

Australia attacked to the final whistle and their luck seemed to arrive with Brosque, whose game-winner came just seven minutes after he was substituted on for Brett Emerton.

World Cup, 3rd. Qualifying Round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
6th. September 2011, 20.30			Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Stadium, Dammam, Saudi Arabia				Hot and dry with a medium breeze			35C		15000	
Saudi Arabia..1 v. Australia..3													
half time, Saudi Arabia..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Hasan Bader Al-Otaibi					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
2	DF	Rahed Abdulrahman Al-Raheeb					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
3	DF	Osama Abdulrzag Hawsawi					3	DF	Michael Zullo		64		79
4	DF	Hamad Mohsen Al-Montashari		76			6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
8	DF	Abdullah Mohammed Al-Zori Al-Dosari					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire	77(pk)			
12	DF	Hassan Muath Fallatah				46	7	MF	Brett Emerton				
6	MF	Ahmed Ibrahim Otaif				60	14	MF	Brett Holman				87
7	MF	Nawaf Shaker Al-Abed				79	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
14	MF	Saud Ali Kariri					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
17	MF	Taiseer Jabir Al-Jassam					17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
9	FW	Naif Ahmad Taib Hazazi					9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy	40, 56			89
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Waleed Abdullah Ali					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				87
5	DF	Majed Ahmed Al-Marshadi					5	DF	Rhys Williams				
10	MF	Mohammad Bander Al-Shalhoub					10	FW	Alex Brosque				
11	FW	Nasser Ali Al-Shamrani	66			60	11	FW	James Troisi				
13	MF	Moataz Sidiq Al-Musa					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
15	FW	Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Sahlawi		83		79	13	MF	Adam Sarota				
16	MF	Yahya Sulaiman Al-Shehri				46	18	GK	Adam Federici				
18	MF	Ahmed Mohammed Al-Fraidi					19	MF	Neil Kilkeny				
19	DF	Mishaal Ahmed Al-Saeed					20	DF	Luke Devere				
20	FW	Yasser Saeed Al-Qahtani					21	DF	Mark Milligan				89
21	GK	Yasser Abdullah Al-Mosaillem					22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
23	DF	Mohamed Eid Al-Bishi					23	FW	Robbie Kruse				79
Team Coach		Franklin Edmundo Rijkaard					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Khaled Abdullah Al-Mojel					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Yuichi Nishimura (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Toru Sagara (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Toshiyuki Nagi (Japan)											

Abdullah Mohammed Al-Zori Al-Dosari is also shown as Abdullah Al-Zori, and Abdulla Aldossary. Ahmed Ibrahim Otaif is also shown as Ahmed Ibrahim Ateef.

Nawaf Shaker Al-Abed is also shown as Nawaf Alabid. In November 2009 he was credited with scoring a goal after 2 seconds for his team Al-Hilal against Al-Shoalah in a Prince Faisal bin Fahad cup match.

Taiseer Jabir Al-Jassam is also shown as Taisir Al-Jassim. Majed Ahmed Al-Marshadi is also shown as Majed Al-Marshedi. Moataz Sidiq Al-Musa is also shown as Motaz Almosa.

match report from the FFA

Australia moved top of Group D in their AFC World Cup qualifying campaign with a 3-1 victory over Saudi Arabia at the Prince Mohamed bin Fahd Stadium in Dammam.

Josh Kennedy scored either side of half-time to give the Qantas Socceroos a 2-0 lead, before the hosts found a reply through Nasser Al Shamrani.

But Luke Wilkshire converted a late penalty to seal the three points and make it two wins from as many games for the Qantas Socceroos.

Holger Osieck made three changes from the Australian side that struggled past Thailand on Friday, with Sasa Ogencovski, Michael Zullo and Mile Jedinak replacing Matthew Spiranovic, Tim Cahill and Neil Kilkeny.

Zullo was the most impressive of the newcomers, with the FC Utrecht full-back going a long way to cementing his spot in the Qantas Socceroos' XI.

Osieck's squad selection was validated after 40 minutes when Australia took the lead.

Wilkshire's cross from the right found the head of Kennedy, who rose above defender Osama Hawsawi and directed his header past the diving Hassan Al Otaibi in the Saudi goal for a deserved opener.

Kennedy secured his brace following an Al Otaibi error in the second half.

The goalkeeper's short pass was cut off by Brett Holman, who set up the Nagoya Grampus striker Kennedy for a second goal on 56 minutes.

Zullo undid some of his hard work when he conceded a 65th-minute penalty for a foul on Naif Hazazi.

Goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer kept out Al Shamrani's first attempt from the spot, guessing correctly to the right, but the striker followed through to pull a goal back for the hosts.

But the Qantas Socceroos were handed the ideal chance to reply when Japanese referee Yuichi Nishimura pointed to the spot once more after Hamad Al Montashari fouled Kennedy following an Australian corner.

Wilkshire fired home a powerful penalty in the 77th minute to seal the three points.

Earlier, the visitors handled the hot and humid conditions with relative ease in the opening 45 minutes, with the home side's best chance on goal coming off the boot of Australian midfielder Carl Valeri, who almost conceded an own goal.

Luckily for Valeri, Schwarzer was on hand to clear the danger in what was one of very few involvements for the custodian early as the Australians manipulated possession for the most part.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
7th. October 2011, 20.00			Canberra Stadium, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (Bruce Stadium)				Fine					10041	
Australia..5 v. Malaysia..0													
half time, Australia..4 v. Malaysia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Adam Federici				46	1	GK	Khairul Fahmi Che Mat				73
2	DF	Lucas Neil (c)					2	DF	Mahali bin Jasuli				46**
3	DF	Michael Zullo				70	4	DF	Mohammad Asraruddin Putra Omar				
5	DF	Rhys Williams					5	DF	Mohammad Norhafiz Zamani Misbah (c)				
6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				46**	8	DF	Joseph Kalang Tie				46*
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire	3			61	9	MF	Norshahrul Idlan Talaha				73*
19	DF	Neil Kilkeny					10	MF	Mohammad Safee Mohammad Sali				
16	MF	Carl Valeri				46*	12	MF	Mohammad Amar bin Rohidan				
17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay					16	FW	Kunanlan Subramaniam				
9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy	33, 45+1			46***	23	FW	Baddrol bin Bakhtiar				46
10	FW	Alex Brosque	39, 69				24	FW	Mohammad Muslim Ahmad				66
SUBSTITUTES													
11	MF	James Troisi				46*	3	DF	Mohammad Farisham bin Ismail				
12	GK	Nathan Coe				46	11	DF	Mohammad Zubir bin Mohammad Azmi				46**
13	MF	Adam Sarota				46***	14	DF	Mohammad Khyril Muhymeen bin Zambri				
14	MF	Brett Holman					15	MF	Kandasamy Gurusamy				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				70	17	MF	Wan Zaharulnizam bin Wan Zakaria				46
22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				46**	18	MF	Reuben Thayaparan Kathiripillai				46*
23	FW	Robbie Kruse				61	19	MF	Mohammad Faizal Muhammad				
							20	FW	Izzaq Faris Ramlan				73*
							21	FW	Yong Kuong Yong				66
							22	GK	Mohammad Farizal Marlias				73
									Mohammad Shahrizal bin Mohammad Saad				
							27	FW					
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Rajagopal Krishnasamy				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager						
Referee		Lee Min Hu (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Brad Hobson (Australia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Paul Cetrangolo (Australia)											

match report from SBS

Australia steamrolled its way to a 5-0 win over Malaysia with the Asian minnow offering little resistance as a FIFA World Cup qualifying warm-up opponent at Canberra Stadium on Friday night.

With the Socceroos using the friendly match as a tune-up for Tuesday's qualifier with Oman in Sydney, it was one-way traffic in front of 10,041 fans as the gulf between the teams looked every bit the 128 ranking places that separate them.

Front man Josh Kennedy continued his stunning recent strike-rate with a first-half brace giving him seven goals in his last four games and 14 from 27 national team appearances.

Fellow Japan-based striker Alex Brosque also bagged a double, while Luke Wilkshire netted the opener in the second minute as Australia racked up a 4-0 half-time lead.

Socceroo coach Holger Osieck made good on his promise to field a strong starting line-up, but tweaked things slightly with Rhys Williams starting at right back and the ever-reliable Wilkshire pushed forward into midfield.

It worked a treat as the pair were involved in everything early, with Wilkshire getting Australia off to a swift start.

A Kennedy through-ball found Williams unmarked and the Middlesbrough defender cut the ball back for Wilkshire to side-foot home his sixth international goal.

Australia kept at Malaysia's throat and several chances went begging before Kennedy doubled the advantage in the 33rd minute.

Brosque found Neil Kilkeny, who played a neat ball to Kennedy and the lanky striker made no mistake with the finish.

After having one shot cleared off the line, Shimzu S-Pulse striker Brosque made amends in the 39th minute when he drilled a shot home from a clever Kennedy set-up.

Nagoya stiker Kennedy was a constant menace and secured his double in first-half injury time from close range following a sublime cross from Williams.

Osieck made four changes after the break, with Nathan Coe replacing Adam Federici in goal and Adam Sarota, James Troisi and Matthew Spiranovic all injected.

Robbie Kruse also came on in the second half and the changes slowed the scoring rate as Australia lacked the cohesion of their first-half performance.

But Brosque kept things ticking over in the 68th minute, beating Malaysian keeper Khairul Mat from outside the box to make it three goals in as many games. As well as giving the likes of Kennedy, Wilkshire and Sasa Ognenovski early marks, Osieck was able to completely rest key midfielder Brett Holman for the Oman match.

World Cup, 3rd. Qualifying Round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
11th. October 2011, 19.30			Stadium Australia, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales (Sydney Olympic Stadium)			Good			19C		24732		
Australia..3 v. Oman..0													
half time, Australia..1 v. Oman..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Adam Federici					1	GK	Ali Abdullah Harib Al-Habsi				
2	DF	Lucas Neill					4	DF	Juma Darwish Juma Al-Maashari				
									Mohammed Abdullah Mubarak Al-Balushi				
3	DF	Michael Zullo				87	5	DF	Al-Balushi				
5	DF	Rhys Williams				72	11	DF	Saad Suhail Juma Al-Mukhaini				
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire		82			6	MF	Rashid Juma Mubarak Al-Farsi				
									Ahmed Mubarak Obaid Al-Mahajiri "Kanu"				
22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					12	MF	Abdulrahman Saleh Khalfan Al-Alawi				
14	MF	Brett Holman	8				13	MF	Ismail Sulaiman Ashoor Al-Ajmi				65
15	MF	Michael Jedinak	85				15	MF	Abdulaziz Humaid Mubarak Al-Maqbali				
16	MF	Carl Valeri					16	FW	Amad Ali Sulaiman Al-Hosni				85
17	MF	Matthew McKay					20	FW	Mohammed Hamed Hidaib Al-Mukhaini "Katkut"				
9	FW	Joshua Kennedy	65	41		90+1	21	FW					65*
SUBSTITUTES													
6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski					2	MF	Eid Mohammed Eid Al-Farsi				65*
									Jaber Mohammed Saghayar Al-Owaisi				
10	FW	Alex Brosque				87	3	DF	Hussain Ali Farah Al-Hadhri				
11	FW	James Troisi					7	MF	Qasim Said Sanjoor Hardan				
12	GK	Nathan Coe					8	MF	Hamood Saleh Said Al-Saadi				65
13	MF	Adam Sarota					9	FW	Fawzi Bashir Rajab Bait Doorbeen				
19	MF	Neil Kilkeny				90+1	10	MF	Hassan Rabia Suwaidan Al-Housni				85
23	FW	Robbie Kruse				72	14	FW	Hassan Yousuf Madhafar Al-Gheilani				
							17	FW	Fayez Issa Khadoom Al-Rusheidi				
							18	GK	Mohamed Ali Humaid Al-Siyabi				
							19	FW	Mohammed Hawaidi Sulaiman Al-Hooti				
							22	GK					
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Paul le Guen				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager		Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Al-Alawi				
Referee		Valentin Kovalenko (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Rafael I lyasov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mamur Saidkasimov (Uzbekistan)											

Qasim Said Sanjoor Hardan is also shown as Qassim Saeed. Fawzi Bashir Rajab Bait Doorbeen is also shown as Fawzi Basheer and Fauzi Bashir. Hassan Rabia Suwaidan Al-Housni is also shown as Hasan Rabee'a and Hassan Rabea. Fayez Issa Khadoom Al-Rusheidi is also shown as Faiyz Issa Khadoom Al-Rusheidi.

match report from SBS

Goals to Brett Holman, Josh Kennedy and Mile Jedinak ensured the Socceroos claimed maximum points from its first three qualifiers after wins over Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

The result means Holger Osieck's team is virtually assured progression to the final stage of qualifying in June next year, only needing as little as a point from its remaining three games in the group to ensure it.

While Oman had proved stiff opposition in three previous meetings, Australia always looked in control in front of 24,372 fans, despite lacking a cutting edge in front of goal for parts of the game.

Osieck made three changes from Friday's night's 5-0 friendly win over Malaysia, with Holman and Jedinak returning to the starting line-up and Matthew Spiranovic starting in central defence ahead of Sasa Ognenovski.

The Socceroos survived some nervous moments and sloppy defending early as Oman made use of its pace with several swift counter-attacking moves.

But just as it was able to do against Malaysia, Australia crushed its opponent's spirit early when Holman netted his sixth international goal in the eighth minute.

The in-form AZ Alkmaar midfielder was on hand to turn home a neat Matt McKay square ball after Oman had failed to clear a dangerous Rhys Williams cross.

Australia maintained its dominance but couldn't add to the scoreboard for a stretch despite Holman's tireless work and McKay's continued attacking threat.

But it finally put the result beyond doubt in the 65th minute when Kennedy continued his stunning scoring run with his eighth goal in his past five international matches.

Holman was again involved, squaring a ball for Wilkshire who had his shot saved by Oman's English-based goalkeeper Ali Al-Habsi, and Kennedy was on hand to smash in from close range.

Hard-working Jedinak completed the rout in the 85th minute, cleverly flicking in a curling Wilkshire free kick from close range.

Oman was limited to a handful of sights on goal, with Australian 'keeper Adam Federici thwarting its best chance with a stunning save in the 68th minute to deny Ahmed Al Mahaijri's curling free kick.

The result left the Paul le Guen-coached Omanis needing a miracle to progress beyond the group, with only a single point from three matches.

World Cup, 3rd. Qualifying Round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
11th. November 2011, 18.00			Sultan Qaboos Stadium, Muscat, Oman			Good			25C		4500		
Oman..1 v. Australia..0													
half time, Oman..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Ali Abdullah Harib Al-Habsi					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
5	DF	Mohammed Abdullah Mubarak Al-Balushi					2	DF	Lucas Neill		20		
11	DF	Saad Suhail Juma Al-Mukhaini					5	DF	Rhys Williams				74
2	MF	Eid Mohammed Eid Al-Farsi					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
7	MF	Hussain Ali Farah Al-Hadhri				70	22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
12	MF	Ahmed Mubarak Obaid Al-Mahajiri "Kanu"		30			14	MF	Brett Holman				
13	MF	Abdulrahman Saleh Khalfan Al-Alawi					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
16	FW	Abdulaziz Humaid Mubarak Al-Maqbali		54			16	MF	Carl Valeri				
17	FW	Hassan Yousuf Madhafar Al-Gheilani					17	MF	Matthew McKay				
20	FW	Amad Ali Sulaiman Al-Hosni	18			80	9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				
21	FW	Mohamed Hamed Hidaib Al-Mukhaini "Katkut"				60	10	FW	Harold "Harry" Kewell				54
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Jaber Mohammed Saghayar Al-Owaisi					3	DF	Michael Zullo				
4	DF	Juma Darwish Juma Al-Maashari					6	DF	Sasa Ogdenovski				
6	MF	Rashid Juma Mubarak Al-Farsi					7	MF	Brett Emerton				74
8	MF	Qasim Said Sanjoor Hardan				80	11	FW	James Troisi				
9	FW	Hamood Saleh Said Al-Saadi					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
10	MF	Fawzi Bashir Rajab Bait Doorbeen				60	13	MF	Adam Sarota				
14	FW	Hassan Rabia Suwaidan Al-Housni					18	GK	Adam Federici				
15	MF	Ismail Sulaiman Ashoor Al-Ajmi		76		70	19	MF	Neil Kilkeny				
18	GK	Fayez Issa Khadoom Al-Rusheidi					20	FW	Alex Brosque				
19	FW	Mohamed Ali Humaid Al-Siyabi					21	FW	Mitchell Nichols				
22	GK	Mohammed Hawaidi Sulaiman Al-Hooti					23	FW	Robbie Kruse				54
Team Coach		Paul le Guen					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Al-Alawi					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Ali Hasan Ebrahim Abdulnabi (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Sayed Jalal Mahfoodh Alawi Mohamed (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Nawaf Shaheen Khalifa Theyab Moosa (Bahrain)											

The AFC reported that the Oman no.13 player was Abdul Sallam Amur Juma Al-Mukhaini.
The AFC reported that the Oman no.21 player was Ahmed Hadid Thuwaini Al-Mukhaini.
The AFC reported that the Oman no.3 player was Badar Nasib Saleem Bamasila.
The AFC reported that the Oman no.4 player was Nasser Sulaiman Abdullah Al-Ali.
The AFC reported that the Oman no.6 player was Abdulrahman Saleh Khalfan Al-Alawi.
The AFC reported that the Oman no.9 player was Abdullah Thuwaini Suwaid Al-Mukhaini.
The AFC reported that the Oman no.19 player was Hamood Saleh Said Al-Saadi.

match report from the FFA

Australia's bid to qualify for the 2014 FIFA World Cup suffered a hiccup on Saturday morning, with the Qantas Socceroos defeated 1-0 by Oman in Muscat.

Holger Osieck's side will get an opportunity to get the point they need to progress to the fourth stage of qualification in Thailand on Tuesday and they will be spurred on by what was a poor performance against an Oman side who claimed their first win against Australia in five attempts.

Amad Al Nosni scored the game's only goal after 18 minutes and the Qantas Socceroos failed to mount an adequate response, with the visitors resorting to long-balls and direct play in a sloppy performance.

Both sides began the match in cagey fashion and although Australia threatened on set-pieces, Mile Jedinak and Matthew Spiranovic could not direct their headers on target.

But it did not take long for the game wide open when Al Hosni caught the Socceroos napping at the back.

Ahmed Hadid picked out the scorer with a nice pass into space, giving Al Hosni the time to compose himself before he fired an angled shot past Mark Schwarzer's left and into the corner of the net.

It was a terrific strike and Australia were quickly on the back foot, with Schwarzer doing well to tip a Hussain Ali Al Hadhri free-kick around the post for a corner moments after.

Australia were denied a quick response by the offside flag on 27 minutes, when Harry Kewell was flagged after he won a header, which was turned in by Brett Holman.

The decision was unfortunate and unlucky for Australia, and although they continued to carve out chances, the quality of them was questionable as a series of hopeful strikes failed to trouble Oman shot-stopper Ali Al Habsi.

Al Hadri produced another quality free-kick on the stroke of half-time and was unlucky to see his effort from distance clip against the post as the hosts headed into the break holding a slender advantage.

The Socceroos were expected to come out firing in the second half but Luke Wilkshire and Josh Kennedy failed to test Al-Habsi in the early stages before Kewell was withdrawn for Robbie Kruse.

Al-Habsi was called into action after 56 minutes when Rhys Williams had his volley acrobatically saved, with a powerful 20-yard strike forcing the Wigan goalkeeper to tip the ball over the bar for a corner.

The visitors had claims for a penalty shortly after when Wilkshire went down after close attention from Hashim Al-Balushi inside the area, before Oman nearly struck a second on the counter-attack with Mile Jedinak rushing back to force a corner.

Oman continued to create chances from set-pieces but failed to convert a string of free headers while Kennedy and Holman failed to get a touch on a tantalising ball across the box from Wilkshire.

Williams limped off with an injury with 17 minutes to play, replaced by Sydney FC's Brett Holman, but although Australia enjoyed the lion's share of possession in the latter stages, they failed to create clear-cut

chances against a disciplined Oman side.

Australia now have nine points from their four matches and although they have two matches remaining in Group D to gain the point they need to progress to the next stage, the Socceroos would love to wrap things up in Bangkok on Tuesday evening.

World Cup, 3rd. Qualifying Round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. November 2011, 18.00			Supachalasai National Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand				Hot and humid			35C		19400	
Thailand..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, Thailand..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Sinthaweechai Hathairattanakool					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
2	DF	Niweat Siriwong					2	DF	Lucas Neill				
4	DF	Chonlatit Jantakam		90+3			3	DF	Michael Zullo				
6	DF	Nataporn Phanrit					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire		79		
19	DF	Suree Sukha					22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
7	MF	Datsakorn Thonglao					7	MF	Brett Emerton		82		
21	MF	Rangsan Vivatchaichok	42			62	14	MF	Brett Holman	77			83
16	MF	Phichitphong Choeichiu				80	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak		75		90+2
17	MF	Supachai Komsilp					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
20	MF	Jakkaphan Kaewprom					17	MF	Matthew McKay		62		
13	FW	Kirati Keawsombut				73	9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				86
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Sivaruk Tedsungnoen					5	DF	Rhys Williams				
3	DF	Panupong Wongsas					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
5	FW	Teersil Dangda					11	FW	James Troisi				
8	MF	Suchao Nutnum					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
9	FW	Surachat Sareepim					13	MF	Adam Sarota				
10	FW	Pipob On-Mo				73	18	GK	Adam Federici				
11	FW	Teeratep Winothai				62	19	MF	Neil Kilkeny				90+2
12	MF	Adul Lahso					20	FW	Alex Brosque				86
14	FW	Sompong Soleb					21	FW	Mitchell Nichols				
15	MF	Surat Sukha					23	FW	Robbie Kruse				83
22	FW	Sarawut Masuk				80							
23	GK	Kawin Thamsatchanan											
Team Coach		Winfried Schafer					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Anucha Nakasai					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Saeid Mozaffari Zadeh Yazdi (Iran)											
Assistant Referee 1		Mohammadreza Abolfazli (Iran)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hedayat Mombeni (Iran)											

The AFC reported that the no.11 player was Rangsan Vivatchaichok.

The AFC reported that the no.5 player was Sarawut Masuk.

The AFC reported that the no.10 player was Teersil Dangda.

The AFC reported that the no.21 player was Teeratep Winothai.

The AFC reported that the no.22 player was Pipob On-Mo.

match report from the FFA

The Qantas Socceroos booked their place in the final round of AFC 2014 World Cup qualifying with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Thailand on Tuesday night.

Hosts Thailand dominated possession but failed to find a breakthrough at the Supachalasai Stadium, and Brett Holman's 78th-minute header proved enough for the Socceroos to take all three points.

Despite a surprise 1-0 defeat to Oman on Saturday, Australia only needed one point to seal top spot in Group D of third-round qualifying in the Asian Football Confederation.

After being outclassed in the first half, Holger Osieck's men attempted to assert themselves in the second 45 minutes.

While gaining a greater share of the ball, they were restricted to fleeting sights of goal, with Matthew Spiranovic and Josh Kennedy both heading wide from set pieces early in the half.

Before Holman's winner, the biggest flashpoint of the second half took place in the technical area.

Osieck was the man in the spotlight, furiously berating his players for failing to play on, as several Thailand players hit the deck in an apparent bid to run down the clock.

Theatrics aside, the hosts appeared set to earn a point through a disciplined performance, before a counter-attack started and finished by Holman undid their hard work.

Picking up possession just inside the opposition half, the AZ Alkmaar forward spread the ball wide to Brett Emerton, Holman then arrived in the box to meet Emerton's cross, heading low beyond Kosin Hathairattanakool in the Thailand goal.

The hosts had few opportunities to undo the damage in the twelve minutes remaining.

Under pressure from Lucas Neill, Chonlatit Jantakam's header flashed wide of goal from close range, and Jakkaphan Kaewprom's shot fell harmlessly on the roof of the net in the final seconds.

Earlier, Australia had enjoyed the first sight of goal in the match, when Kennedy headed Michael Zullo's cross directly at Hathairattanakool two minutes in.

But despite that promising start, it was Thailand who went on to dictate terms. Recalled after starting the match against Oman among the substitutes, Zullo was targeted at left-back and the converted winger was often under pressure.

Suree Sukha, who failed to make an appearance during his one season with Manchester City, was a constant threat, and wasted the best chance of the half on thirty-four minutes.

Played in behind a static Australia defence, Sukha found himself one-on-one with goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer but could only blaze over from a tight angle.

It was not the first warning shot across the Socceroos' bow; Kirati Keawsombut had also gone close, firing over a first-time strike from Sukha's cross in the sixteenth minute.

At the other end, Kennedy did find the target a second time in the half, stooping to head an Emerton delivery goalwards. Hathairattanakool's save was routine, and reflective of Thailand's comfort throughout the first forty-five minutes.

But for all their endeavours, to the victors go the spoils. Thailand were left to rue their inability to capitalise on a hard-working display, while Australia move on to the final group stage, with a third consecutive World Cup finals in their sights.

World Cup 3rd.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time		Venue				Weather		Temperature		Attendance			
29th. February 2012, 20.30		Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria (AAMI Park)				Cloudy and Rain		17C		24214			
Australia..4 v. Saudi Arabia..2													
half time, Australia..1 v. Saudi Arabia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					1	GK	Waleed Abdullah Ali				
2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)					3	DF	Osama Abdulrazag Hawsawi				
4	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				82	4	DF	Abdullah Mohammed Al-Zori Al-Dosari				
5	DF	Jade North					7	MF	Kamel Al-Mousa				
6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski					10	MF	Mohammad Bander Al-Shalhoub				79
7	MF	Brett Emerton	75				11	MF	Nasser Ali Al-Shamrani	45+2	79		72
8	DF	Mark Milligan					12	DF	Hassan Muath Fallatah				
10	FW	Harold "Harry" Kewell	72				14	MF	Saud Ali Kariri		62		
11	MF	James Troisi				63	15	MF	Ahmed Mohammed Al-Fraidi				66
20	FW	Alex Brosque	36, 74			87	17	MF	Taiseer Jabir Al-Jassam				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano					19	FW	Salem Mohammed Al-Dawsari	19			
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	David Carney				82	2	MF	Yasir Gharshan Al-Shahrani				
9	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				63	5	DF	Mohamed Eid Al-Bishi				
12	MF	Erik Paartalu					6	DF	Ahmed Ibrahim Ateef				66
13	MF	Adam Sarota					9	FW	Naif Ahmad Taib Hazazi				79
14	DF	Michael Marrone					13	MF	Ibrahim Mohammed Jahsan				
15	DF	Michael Thwaite					16	MF	Yousef Mansoor Al-Salem				
16	MF	Nicholas "Nick" Carle				87	18	MF	Hamad Muhanna Alhamad				
18	GK	Mathew Ryan					20	MF	Yasser Saeed Al-Qahtani				72
							21	GK	Yasser Abdullah Al-Mosailem				
							22	GK	Ahmed Ali Al-Kassar				
							23	MF	Kamil Omar Fallata				
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Franklin Edmundo Rijkaard				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Kim Dong-jin (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Jeong Hae-sang (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jang Jun-mo (Korea Republic)											

match report from SBS

Striker Alex Brosque scored a double as a stunning second-half Australia barrage set up a 4-2 win to end Saudi Arabia's 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign on Wednesday night.

Australia was certain to progress to the final stage of qualifying top of its group, regardless of the result of the clash at Melbourne's AAMI Park.

But it looked in danger of suffering its first loss on home soil in three years when it trailed 2-1 at half-time and that was still the score 72 minutes into the match.

But the game turned dramatically when the home side piled on three goals in three minutes to ensure it will carry plenty of confidence into the last stage of qualifying for Brazil.

Brosque scored Australia's lone goal in the first half when midfielder Marko Bresciano, playing his first game for the Socceroos since the 2010 World Cup, gave the pacy striker a nice through-ball to run onto.

Brosque was also heavily involved in the second-half onslaught.

He set up Harry Kewell, who had an excellent match, for Australia's second goal of the night, running past the defence into the left of the penalty area, then cutting it back for Kewell's first-touch finish.

Brosque scored himself two minutes later, combining superbly with Brett Emerton, whose perfect chipped cross from the left allowed the striker to speed into the penalty area and head it past the Saudi keeper.

Within a minute of the re-start, Emerton had scored himself, with Bresciano again providing the assist and Emerton having a touch of luck, as a defender's attempted clearance ricocheted off the Australian's boot into the net.

It was fitting the Socceroos had a dose of luck, as earlier in the second half captain Lucas Neill was denied what would have been his maiden international goal by an incorrect offside call.

At the time, that 63rd minute decision looked like being costly for Australia, which was still trailing.

Earlier, the Socceroos made a sluggish start to go a goal down, courtesy of Saudi Arabia's Salem Mohammed Aldawsari in the 19th minute.

After Brosque's 43rd-minute equaliser, the home side paid for some loose defensive checking when Nassir Ali Alshamrani received a cross unmarked in the penalty area and fired home in first-half stoppage time.

"It wasn't the best of first-half performances, we knew the Saudis would come at us, but it was a great response and a good talk at half-time and passing the ball around quickly in the second half opened them up a little bit," Socceroos captain Lucas Neil said. "It's March 9 now and then we can look ahead and we can really focus in on what we have to do to get to Brazil, the games are going to get tougher than this and we're

going to have to be at our best."

Australia's win was good news for Oman, which overtook Saudi Arabia to progress to the next stage with a simultaneous 2-0 win over Thailand in Muscat.

The draw for the final round of Asian group qualifiers is on 9 March.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
2nd. June 2012, 17.00			Parken Stadium, Copenhagen, Denmark				Good						
Denmark..2 v. Australia..0													
half time, Denmark..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Stephan Andersen					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Simon Kjaer				46	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
4	DF	Daniel Agger (c)	31(pk)			62	22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic		31		
6	DF	Lars Jacobsen					13	DF	Jade North				
5	DF	Simon Buskpoulsen				74	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				65*
7	MF	William Kvist				82	23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				73
8	DF	Christian Eriksen				46*	17	MF	Matthew McKay				
21	MF	Niki Zimling					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				68*
10	FW	Dennis Rommedahl					10	FW	Harold "Harry" Kewell				68
11	FW	Niklas Bendtner					7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				65
9	FW	Michael Krohn-Dehli				73	20	FW	Alex Brosque				
SUBSTITUTES													
16	GK	Donald Lindegaard					18	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
22	GK	Kasper Schmeichel					3	DF	Michael Zullo				
2	MF	Christian Poulsen					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				68
12	DF	Andreas Bjelland	67			46*	5	DF	Rhys Williams				
13	DF	Daniel Wass				74	6	DF	Sasa Ogrenovski				
14	MF	Lars Schone					11	DF	David Carney				65
15	MF	Michael Silverbauer					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
17	FW	Nicklas Pederson					14	FW	Robbie Kruse				68*
18	DF	Jores Okore				62	16	DF	Mark Milligan				65*
19	MF	Jakob Poulsen				82	19	MF	Neil Kilkeny				73
20	MF	Thomas Kahlenburg				46	21	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				
23	FW	Tobias Mikkelsen				73							
Team Coach		Morten Olsen					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Antonio Damato (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 1		Elenito di Liberatore (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mauro Tonolini (Italy)											

match report from the FFA

Denmark have cruised to a 2-0 friendly win against a lacklustre Australia in Copenhagen on Saturday.

A first-half penalty to Denmark captain Daniel Agger gave the hosts the advantage before defender Andreas Bjelland sealed the result with 22 minutes remaining.

While the Socceroos created a handful of chances, they were poor and never really looked likely as they slumped to their fourth loss under manager Olger Osieck.

The German made four changes to the side who beat Saudi Arabia 4-2 in a World Cup qualifier in February, with Luke Wilkshire, Mile Jedinak, Matt McKay and Archie Thompson all drafted into the starting line-up.

Making way were Mark Milligan and Sasa Ogrenovski, who dropped to the bench.

Regulars Josh Kennedy and Brett Holman were also absent, with the former missing due to club commitments while the latter did not travel with his wife expecting to give birth to their second child.

Denmark - who were defeated 3-1 by Brazil a week ago - burst out of the blocks as Dennis Rommedahl and Nicklas Bendtner fired early shots on goal.

The Danes were causing Australia issues, particularly down the left flank, and their high pressure forced the Socceroos to sit back which suited the hosts.

Luke Wilkshire was lucky to get away with a lunge on Simon Poulsen before a neat move that involved Harry Kewell, Thompson and Jedinak ended with Alex Brosque, who dragged his shot just wide.

Australia started to work their way into the match but Niki Zimling and Bendtner still had half-chances on goal before a sublime attacking move led to the opener.

Agger created the passage of play as one-touch passing from himself, Bendtner and then a clever back-heel from Eriksen had the Socceroos defence at sixes and sevens.

Agger continued his run and was brought down by Matthew Spiranovic in the penalty area, with the Liverpool defender dusting himself down before beating Schwarzer from twelve yards.

Mark Bresciano had two decent efforts from long range which tested Danish goalkeeper Stephan Andersen before half-time, but the Danes fully deserved their one-goal lead at the break.

Kewell failed to take advantage of a poor back pass, firing wide early in the second half while shortly after Brosque had Australia's best chance.

It was Kewell's angled header that played the Japan-based attacker in but he could only shoot straight at Andersen, wasting a one-on-one chance with his non-preferred right foot.

And Denmark made the Socceroos pay just eight minutes later when Bjelland poked home the rebound from a corner that was not cleared.

A horror back pass from Matthew Spiranovic nearly saw Denmark go further ahead although Bendtner shot wide when he only had Schwarzer to beat.
The match petered out in the latter stages with a raft of substitutions from both sides interrupting the flow.
Denmark deserved their victory though, leaving the Socceroos with plenty of work to do before they take on Oman in Muscat on Friday night.

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time		Venue				Weather		Temperature		Attendance			
8th. June 2012, 17.00		Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Muscat, Oman				Very hot and humid		42		11000			
Oman..0 v. Australia..0													
half time, Oman..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Ali Abdullah Harib Al-Habsi (c)					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
2	DF	Mohammed Saleh Ali Al-Musalami					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
5	DF	Mohammed Abdullah Mubarak Al-Balushi					6	DF	Sasa Ogrenovski		6		
10	MF	Eid Mohammed Eid Al-Farsi				72	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				83
12	MF	Ahmed Mubarak Obaid Al-Mahajiri "Kanu"					11	DF	David Carney				
13	MF	Mohamed Hamed Hidaib Al-Mukhaini "Katkut"					13	DF	Jade North				
15	MF	Ismail Sulaiman Ashoor Al-Ajmi					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
23	MF	Juma Darwish Juma Al-Maashari				68	17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay				
6	FW	Raed Ibrahim Saleh					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				
11	FW	Saad Suhail Juma Al-Mukhaini					10	FW	Harold "Harry" Kewell				59
20	FW	Amad Ali Sulaiman Al-Hosni				84	20	FW	Alex Brosque				
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Jaber Mohammed Saghayar Al-Owaisi					12	GK	Nathan Coe				
4	MF	Ali Hilal Saud Al-Jabri				72	18	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
7	MF	Hussain Ali Farah Al-Hadhri				68	3	DF	Mark Milligan				
8	DF	Ali Salim Obaid Bait Al-Nahar					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
9	FW	Abdulaziz Humaid Mubarak Al-Maqbali					5	DF	Rhys Williams				
14	DF	Abdulrahman Saleh Khalfan Al-Alawi					7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				59
16	FW	Mohammed Saleh Abdallah Al-Ghassani					9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				
17	FW	Waleed Abdallah Ameir Al-Saadi				84	14	FW	Robbie Kruse				83
18	GK	Fayez Issa Khadoom Al-Rusheidi					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
19	FW	Azan Abbas Sabil Al-Balushi					19	MF	Neil Kilkenney				
21	DF	Abdul Salam Amur Juma Al-Mukhaini					21	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				
22	GK	Hani Najmuddin Awadh Bait Ibin Saleem					22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
Team Coach		Paul le Guen					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Al-Alawi					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Faghani Alireza (Iran)											
Assistant Referee 1		Hassan Kamranifar (Iran)											
Assistant Referee 2		Reza Sokhandan (Iran)											

Some sources reported that the no.13 player was Abdul Salam Amur Juma Al-Mukhaini.
Some sources reported that the no.10 player was Fawzi Bashir Rajab Bait Doorbeen (also shown as Fawzi Basheer or, Fauzi Bashir)

match report from the AFC

Oman produced a rousing response following the weekend's defeat by Japan and were unfortunate not to hand Australia a defeat at the start of their final round of qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup as the disappointed Socceroos left Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex with a hard-fought point following Friday's goalless draw.

Having been completely outplayed by Japan on Sunday as the 2011 AFC Asian Cup winners eased to a 3-0 win, Oman could easily have recorded another famous win over Australia having beaten the Socceroos 1-0 at home in the third round at the end of last year.

But Oman found Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer at the top of his game, with the Fulham custodian superbly denying Amad Al Hosni just before the hour mark.

Australia did finish the game strongly with substitute Archie Thompson coming close to a late winner, although the Socceroos will need to considerably raise their game for the visit of Japan - who earlier thrashed Jordan 6-0 in Group B - to Brisbane on Tuesday.

"We played in a balanced formation whether defensively or on the attacking front. We had a lot of opportunities to score from corners and from other chances, but we failed to score," said Oman coach Paul Le Guen.

"We played with a big fighting spirit and we played well. I'm very proud of my players because Australia are one of the favourites to go through and they failed to score against us in two matches they played here."

Oman started brightly and Al Hosni headed straight at visiting goalkeeper Schwarzer after just ten minutes before home custodian Ali Al Habsi was forced into action ten minutes later to push a long range effort from David Carney over the crossbar as Australia came into the contest as the half progressed.

And Al Habsi again had to be on his toes fifteen minutes before the break as Carl Valeri took his turn to try his luck from range, with the Wigan Athletic goalkeeper pushing the rasping strike over the crossbar.

Oman's Saudi based striker Al Hosni sent Schwarzer scrambling across his goal five minutes after the restart as Oman continued to look dangerous going forward, with Australia forced onto the back foot at the start of the opening 45 minutes.

And four minutes before the hour mark Schwarzer came to Australia's rescue as a short corner from Oman caught out the visitors and Al Hosni's close range diving header looked destined for the back of the net until the Fulham goalkeeper produced a superb reflex save.

Australia continued to struggle to create a meaningful attacking threat with Oman still the most likely to break the deadlock, but with eight minutes remaining Al Habsi was forced to save at the feet of substitute Thompson following a flowing move from the Socceroos.

Thompson's introduction did hand Australia a different dimension in attack in the final ten minutes and after first seeing a smart back heel saved by Al Habsi, the Melbourne Victory striker sent a header narrowly dipping over the crossbar in stoppage time.

"I'm comfortable with the draw looking at the conditions and the hot weather which we played the match in," said Australia coach Holger Osieck. "Our players were good and they managed to have a good match against a team with young players who run a lot. The match is now over and our concentration will be on the match against Japan who will be in a better condition than us as they are traveling a shorter distance while we will have a long trip back home."

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
12th. June 2012, 20.00			Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland			Good			17C		40189		
Australia..1 v. Japan..1													
half time, Australia..0 v. Japan..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					1	GK	Eiji Kawashima				
2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)					5	DF	Yuto Nagatomo				
6	DF	Sasa Ogdenovski					6	DF	Atsuto Uchida		70		72
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire	70(pk)			90+1	16	DF	Yuzo Kurihara	65	22	89	
11	DF	David Carney					4	MF	Keisuke Honda		83		
13	DF	Jade North					7	MF	Yasuhito Endo				
16	MF	Carl Valeri					10	MF	Shinji Kagawa				90+1
17	MF	Matthew McKay				64	15	MF	Yasuyuki Konno		29		
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				12	17	MF	Makoto Hasebe (c)				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill					9	FW	Shinji Okazaki				85
20	FW	Alex Brosque					18	FW	Ryoichi Maeda				
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Mark Milligan		24	55	12	2	MF	Masahiko Inoha				90+1
5	DF	Rhys Williams					3	DF	Komano Yuichi				
7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson					8	MF	Hiroshi Kiyotake				85
9	FW	Joshua "Josh" Kennedy					11	FW	Mike Havenaar				
10	FW	Harold "Harry" Kewell					12	GK	Shusaku Nishikawa				
12	GK	Nathan Coe					13	MF	Hajime Hosogai				
14	FW	Robbie Kruse				90+1	14	MF	Kengo Nakamura				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					19	MF	Miyaichi Ryo				
18	GK	Mitchell Langerak					20	MF	Takahashi Hideto				
19	MF	Neil Kilkeny					21	DF	Sakai Hiroki				72
21	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				64	22	DF	Tomoaki Makino				
22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					23	GK	Shuichi Gonda				
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Alberto Zaccheroni				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager						
Referee		Khalil Ibrahim Al-Ghamdi (Saudi Arabia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Badr Ali Al-Shumrani (Saudi Arabia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Abdulaziz Hussain Al-Kathiri (Saudi Arabia)											

match report from the AFC

Australia came back from a goal down despite playing the final 34 minutes with ten men to share points with AFC Asian Cup champions Japan in a thrilling 1-1 draw between the Group B heavyweights in the final round of qualifying for the 2014 FIFA World Cup at Brisbane Stadium on Tuesday.

Yuzo Kurihara gave the Japanese the lead nine minutes after Mark Milligan had been sent off for a second bookable offence but a penalty from Luke Wilkshire in the 70th minute and a late sending off for Kurihara were the highlights of an incident packed encounter.

Japan retain their unbeaten start in their quest for a place in Brazil in 2014, moving on to seven points from three games while the Socceroos picked up a second draw in five days after sharing the spoils with Oman in Muscat on Friday.

Despite playing at home, Australia were slated as underdogs against a Japan side that was in scintillating form against Oman and Jordan.

Holger Osieck's side set out to exploit the uncertainty at the heart of the defence due to Maya Yoshida's injury-enforced absence, with the partnership of Yasuyuki Konno and Yuzo Kurihara looking tentative at best against Alex Brosque and Tim Cahill.

David Carney shot wide with less than a minute on the clock as the Socceroos signalled their intent early and Carl Valeri and Cahill had efforts that caused consternation in the Japanese defence while Kurihara was forced to clear the ball off the line following a melee in the penalty area in the 20th minute.

Japan were second best throughout the first quarter of the game but as the half wore on the Asian champions increasingly took control as the Australian defence grew more and more desperate.

Honda was just off target with a long range attempt in the 26th minute while Ryoichi Maeda and Atsuto Uchida saw attempts deflected wide soon after.

Shinji Kagawa then played Yuto Nagatomo into space behind the defence but the Inter Milan full back's ball across the face of goal had too much pace for Maeda to react in time.

Uchida was then off target with his effort and, with the game entering first-half stoppage time, Kagawa saw his attempt blocked after Carney looked to have handled the ball in the area.

Within eleven minutes of the restart the game swung in Japan's favour when Milligan - an early substitute in the first half replacing the injured Mark Bresciano - received a yellow card for a foul on Uchida following a first-half booking for a foul on Keisuke Honda and referee Khalil Al Ghamdi sent off the JEF United Chiba man.

By the 64th minute, Japan had made the man advantage count thanks to a well-worked corner that saw Honda lay the ball off to Hasebe before receiving the return pass that put him behind the home defence and the CSKA Moscow man's ball found Kurihara at the far post and he made no mistake.

Australia, though, refused to give up the fight and, five minutes later, Osieck's side was back on level terms when Uchida was judged to have pulled Brosque to the ground as the ball was sent in from the corner and Al Ghamdi pointed to the spot, with Wilkshire duly dispatching the spot kick beyond Eiji Kawashima. Despite being down a man, the Australians continued to press and, in the 77th minute, former AFC Player of the Year Sasa Ogdenovski thought he had given the Socceroos an unlikely win when he turned to shoot goalward but the Seongnam Ilhwa defender saw his shot crash back into play off the underside of the bar. With time running out, Kurihara then picked up his second booking of the game when he knocked Brosque over in a seemingly innocuous challenge and Al Ghamdi sent the Yokohama F Marinos defender off to set up a fascinating finale which saw Kawashima pull off a top class save from Wilkshire's free kick.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. August 2012, 20.00			Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh, Scotland				Rain					11110	
Scotland..3 v. Australia..1													
half time, Scotland..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Allan McGregor				22	1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				45
2	DF	Alan Hutton				67	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
3	DF	Danny Fox				69	5	DF	Rhys Williams				
4	DF	Christophe Berra					6	DF	Sasa Ogdenovski				78
6	DF	Andy Webster					11	DF	David Carney				59
5	MF	Gary Caldwell				87	8	MF	Luke Wilkshire				
7	MF	Robert Snodgrass					16	MF	Carl Valeri				
8	MF	Steven Naismith					17	MF	Robbie Kruse		86		
10	MF	Charlie Adam					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano	18			45*
11	MF	James Morrison				27	14	FW	Brett Holman				45**
9	FW	Jordan Rhodes	28			67*	20	FW	Alex Brosque				84
SUBSTITUTES													
12	GK	Matthew Gilks				22	7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				84
13	FW	David Goodwillie					9	FW	Scott McDonald				45**
14	FW	Charlie Mulgrew				69	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
15	MF	Matt Phillips					13	DF	Ryan McGowan				78
16	FW	Ross McCormack	76			67*	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				45*
17	FW	Shaun Maloney				27	18	GK	Adam Federici				45
19	MF	Don Cowie					19	MF	Neil Kilkenney				
20	MF	Ian Black				87	21	DF	Jason Davidson	63(og)			59
21	GK	David Marshall											
22	FW	Barry Bannan											
23	DF	Russell Martin				67							
Team Coach								Team Coach		Holger Osieck			
Team Manager		Craig Levein						Team Manager		Gary Moretti			
Referee		Tom Harald Hagen (Norway)											
Assistant Referee 1		Dag Roger Nebben (Norway)											
Assistant Referee 2		Magnus Lundberg (Norway)											

Match report from Football Federation Australia

The Qantas Socceroos slumped to a disappointing 3-1 loss to Scotland after a sloppy performance in their international friendly in Edinburgh.

A brilliant Mark Bresciano strike gave the Socceroos the lead in the first half, but they went into the break on level terms after Jordan Rhodes equalised at a wet Easter Road.

An own goal from Jason Davidson - just minutes into his debut - on the hour-mark and a Ross McCormack strike sealed a deserved victory for Scotland. The loss extended Australia's winless run to four - the national team's worst streak since 2000. The hosts looked more threatening in the opening exchanges, with Aston Villa full back Alan Hunter lively down the right.

It took 13 minutes for the first shot on target as Steven Naismith tested Socceroos goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer from 30 yards, but the Fulham shot-stopper was up to the task.

Despite Scotland's early dominance, it was the Socceroos who found the opener in the 18th minute after going close just moments earlier. A Carney throw-in caught the Scotland defence off guard and Robbie Kruse capitalised, dribbling into the area from the left. His first touch let him down and his cut-back was deflected out, leading to officials awarding Australia a corner. Unaware a corner had been awarded, Holman continued to play on and he claimed to have scrambled in the opener as Danny Fox handled on the goal-line, although TV replays showed the ball had crossed. But the visitors would open the scoring from the resulting corner once it was finally taken, and in some style thanks to Bresciano. Bresciano beautifully dealt with the partial clearance from Luke Wilkshire's corner, striking a looping first-time volley into the bottom corner, leaving Allan McGregor no chance.

Scotland needed just 10 minutes to find an equaliser as Rhodes levelled with his first international goal. The prolific Huddersfield Town striker beat Sasa Ogrenovski to a Fox cross from the left, glancing his header past Schwarzer.

With Bresciano and Holman substituted at the break, Australia took time to settle in the second half, with Wilkshire going close in the 59th minute. Kruse went past Hutton with neat skill down the left, cutting for

Wilkshire, whose shot from inside the area was palmed away by substitute goalkeeper Matt Gilks.

Davidson, son of former Socceroos Alan, was rewarded with his first cap on the hour-mark, but it became a debut to forget just moments later. The 21-year-old was in position to clear a cross from the impressive Fox, but he appeared to try and divert his header into the hands of Adam Federici, only to see him beat his own goalkeeper.

Scotland completed the victory with a quarter of an hour to play after poor defending from the Socceroos. McCormack evaded the tackles of Ogrenovski and Davidson before wrong-footing Federici and placing his shot into the bottom corner. Ryan McGowan joined Davidson in earning his first cap as Scotland saw out a comfortable win with the Socceroos continuing to struggle in the second half.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
6th. September 2012, 20.45			Saida Municipal Stadium, Saida, Lebanon				Hot and humid					9000	
Lebanon..0 v. Australia..3													
half time, Lebanon..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
23	GK	Abbas Hassan					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer (c)				
3	DF	Hassan Mezher				46	2	DF	Lucas Neil				
16	DF	Bilal Shiekh El Najarin					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				46
4	DF	Mootaz Jounaidi					20	FW	Alex Brosque				69
18	DF	Walid I smail		67		74	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	20			51
15	MF	Haitham Faour					11	DF	David Carney				
20	MF	Roda Antar (c)		39		63	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				60
10	MF	Abbas Ahmad Atwi				68	17	MF	Matthew McKay	23			
7	FW	Hassan Maatouk					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
13	FW	Akram Moghrabi				59	21	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				78
9	FW	Mohamad Haidar				71	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				65
SUBSTITUTES													
19	DF	Ali Hamam				46	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				46
22	FW	Philippe Paoli				59	7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson	88			51
5	MF	Nader Matar				63	19	MF	Adam Sarota				69
6	MF	Moham é d Shamas				68	16	MF	James Holland				78
17	FW	Mahmoud El-Ali				71	14	FW	Brett Holman		87		60
12	MF	Hussein Dakik				74	13	DF	Jade North				65
1	GK	Zaid Al-Samad					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
2	DF	Ali Al Saadi					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
8	MF	Hassan Chaito					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
14	MF	Amer Khan					18	GK	Bradley Jones				
21	GK	Larry Mhanna					22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
Team Coach		Theo B ü cker					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Christos Nicolaides (Cyprus)											
Assistant Referee 1		Sotiris Viktoros (Cyprus)											
Assistant Referee 2		Georgios Papathomas (Cyprus)											

Match report from Football Federation Australia

Tim Cahill, Matt McKay and Archie Thompson all scored as Australia notched an impressive 3-0 friendly win over Lebanon in Beirut on Friday morning.

The Qantas Socceroos were utterly dominant in the first half as Cahill and McKay scored inside 23 minutes, with playmaker Mark Bresciano particularly impressive, and Thompson's late effort added polish to the scoreline as Australia gained a confidence boost ahead of Wednesday morning's crucial 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Jordan.

Head coach Holger Osieck made three changes to the side that lost 3-1 to Scotland last month, with Rhys Williams, Brett Holman and Carl Valeri making way for Cahill, McKay and Nikita Rukavytsya in the starting side. It meant that Alex Brosque started up front, with Rukavytsya and Kruse offering support on the wings in an attacking side.

Cahill produced the first chance of the match when he fired a left-footed effort straight at Lebanon goalkeeper Abbas Hassan on 11 minutes before the floodlights at the Saida International Stadium went out, leading to a short delay.

The visitors came out breathing fire after the restart and quickly scored through Cahill. Bresciano set up the goal with a brilliant ball to Luke Wilkshire on the right, who whipped a tidy cross into the area allowing Cahill to rise highest and head Australia into the lead after 19 minutes.

Just four minutes later and the advantage was doubled as McKay got on the end of a superb team move. A series of passes were sprayed around the attacking third and although the move looked like it may have broken down, Bresciano revived it with a ball out to David Carney on the left wing. The Bunyodkor utility cut back to McKay, and although Hassan got a hand to his shot, he could not do enough to stop the ball sneaking into the corner of the net, allowing the Australian to celebrate his first goal for the national team.

Brosque then spurned a good chance, firing over the bar while Cahill again shot at Hassan. Going forward, Australia were causing Lebanon all sorts of problems with the pace of Kruse and Rukavytsya particularly threatening. Lebanon had fleeting moments, usually involving Roda Antar - he had an effort blocked by Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, while he also headed over in the build-up to half-time - but the Qantas Socceroos were in complete control at the break.

Lebanon's Hassan Maatouk went on a terrific run early in the second half, beating several opponents but he could only steer his left-foot shot wide of the post as Schwarzer - who was making his 100th. appearance for his country - breathed a sigh of relief.

Brosque went off with 21 minutes remaining with a leg injury that looked serious before substitutes Holman and Adam Sarota wasted chances to score. Thompson - also a substitute - made up for it though, with the Melbourne Victory forward scoring his first international goal since 2006, producing a nice left-foot finish to give Australia a winning margin that they deserved.

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
11th. September 2012, 19.00			King Abdullah International Stadium, Amman, Jordan				Warm			26C		16000	
Jordan..2 v. Australia..1													
half time, Jordan..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Amer Shafi Mahmoud Sabbah		54			1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
4	DF	Mohammad Al-Dmeiri				46	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
5	DF	Abdel-Ilah Yusef Abed Al-Hanahneh					6	DF	Sasa Ogrenovski				14
8	DF	Mohammad Mustafa Hassan Ali					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire		38		
15	DF	Shadi Nadmi Abu Hash'h'hash					11	DF	David Carney				
16	DF	Basem Fat'hi Omar Othman		90+4			14	MF	Brett Holman				74
19	DF	Anas Walid Khaled Bani Yaseen					17	MF	Matthew McKay				
7	MF	Amer Deeb Mohammad Khalil (c)	73				23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				46
18	MF	Hassan Abdel-Fattah Mahmoud	50(pk)			84	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
9	FW	Odai Yusuf Ismaeel Al-Saify				74	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				
10	FW	Ahmad Hayel Ibrahim					20	FW	Alex Brosque				
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Mohammad Muneer Ahmed Al-Muattasim					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
3	DF	Suleiman Muwafaq Al-Salman					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
6	MF	Saeed Hassan Murjan				46	7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson	86			74
11	MF	Ra'ed Abdul-Rahman Fraeh Al-Nawateer					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
12	GK	Lo'ai Salem Atallah Al-Amaireh					13	DF	Jade North				
13	DF	Mohammad Ghassan Al-Basha					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				46
14	FW	Mahmoud Salim Za'tara					16	MF	James Holland				
17	DF	Ibrahim Farhan Al-Zawahreh					18	GK	Bradley Jones				
20	FW	Hamza Ali Khaled Al-Dardour				84	19	MF	Adam Sarota				
21	FW	Ahmed Saleh Samir					21	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				
22	GK	Abdallah Fayiz Abdallah Al-Zubi					22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				14
23	FW	Anas Jamal Hijah				74							
Team Coach		Adnan Hamad					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Osama Talal					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Abdullah Baloushi (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Salem Rashid Al-Naimi (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Taleb Salem Al-Marri (Qatar)											

Match report from the Asian Football Confederation

Jordan emphatically kickstarted their FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign as Hasan Abdel Fattah and captain Amer Deeb scored to secure a 2-1 win over winless Australia at King Abdullah International Stadium on Tuesday. Having suffered a 6-0 defeat at the hands of Japan last time out in the final round of qualifiers for Brazil 2014, Jordan took the lead shortly after half-time as Fattah held his nerve from the penalty spot before Deeb crucially added a second with just over 15 minutes remaining. And after adding to their 1-1 draw with Iraq from June's opening round of fixtures, Jordan's first victory of the campaign lifts Adnan Hamad's side up into second place in Group B – although Japan hold a six point lead having recorded a 1-0 win over Iraq earlier in the day.

"The match was not easy. We tried our best to control the tempo and avoided scoring quickly because we wanted to control the proceedings and we managed to do so," said Jordan coach Hamad. "I'm satisfied with the performance of our players who put in a great effort despite the injuries they suffered before the game. "We still have a long road to go and hopefully we can continue and build on this momentum that we got from tonight's important victory."

With Archie Thompson's strike coming too late for Australia, who dominated for a considerable period in the second half either side of Jordan's goals, Holger Osieck's side have managed just two points from their opening three games following draws against Oman and Japan. Jordan were lucky tonight as we had a lot of chances to score but their goalkeeper had a good performance and prevented us from scoring on different occasions, said the German. "We made some mistakes which have cost us the three points tonight and our players didn't perform well overall. But despite the defeat, we are still in contention and we will try to make a good comeback in our next matches."

Tim Cahill had the first effort on target for Australia after just four minutes as he fired a snap-shot straight at Jordan goalkeeper Amer Shafi before the Socceroos were forced into a change inside the opening 15 minutes as 2010 AFC Player of the Year Sasa Ogrenovski was forced off and replaced by Matthew Spiranovic. Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer had to be on his toes to push a speculative effort from Odai Al Saify over the crossbar as the home side came into the contest as the half progressed. Jordan remained on top but were unable to really test Schwarzer, while at the other end Brett Holman saw a shot from the edge of the area deflected safely into arms of Shafi as the half ended goalless.

Half-time substitute Mile Jedinak almost made an instant impact as he headed wide from a promising position at the back post at the start of the second half. But just minutes later Jedinak was adjudged to have

upended Al Saify as the striker cut back inside the area and Fattah stepped up to coolly convert from the penalty spot despite Schwarzer diving the right way low to his left. Jedinak almost redeemed himself just after the hour mark but Shafi pushed away his angled strike before the Jordan custodian was again called into action to smartly push a close range header from Alex Brosque over the crossbar as Australia began to pile on the pressure as the half progressed. Shafi was then sent flying across his goal as Jedinak's vicious long range strike came back off the post with Australia continuing to dominate possession but unable to create a genuine clear-cut chance to draw level. And with 17 minutes remaining, Al Saify led a Jordan counterattack down the right wing and after darting into the penalty area and riding the challenge of Australia captain Lucas Neill, pulled the ball back for Deeb to fire into an empty net with Schwarzer out of position. Deeb should have added a third four minutes later, but with only Schwarzer to beat, lifted the ball over the Australia goalkeeper and the crossbar. The miss almost proved costly as Thompson's low drilled strike from the edge of the area with four minutes remaining set-up a tense finish, but Jordan held on to record a famous victory.

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time		Venue				Weather		Temperature		Attendance			
16th. October 2012,		Al Arabi Stadium, Doha, Qatar				Sunny and hot		32C		2183			
Iraq..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Iraq..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Noor Sabri Abbas Hassan Al-Bairawi					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
2	DF	Ahmad Ibrahim Khalaf					2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)	57			
7	DF	Hammadi Ahmad Abdullah				60	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
14	DF	Salam Shaker Ali Dad		42			22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
16	DF	Samal Saeed Mujbel					14	MF	Brett Holman				
19	DF	Hussam Kadhim Jabur					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
4	MF	Khaldoun Ibrahim Mohammed		61			16	MF	Carl Valeri	19			
5	MF	Nashat Akram Abid Ali				84	17	MF	Matthew McKay				
13	MF	Ahmed Yaseen Ghani					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	80	88		90
20	MF	Muthana Khalid Salih Al-Masloukhi				64	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				79
10	FW	Younis Mahmoud Khalef (c)					20	FW	Alex Brosque				75
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Jalal Hassan Hajim					3	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				79
3	DF	Ali Bahjat Fadhil					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
6	FW	Osama Jabar Shafia Rashid				84	6	DF	Mark Milligan				
8	MF	Samer Saeed Mujbel					7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson	84			75
9	FW	Mustafa Karim Abdullah				60	9	MF	James Holland				90
11	FW	Amjad Radhi Yousif Al-Janabi					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
12	GK	Mohammed Kassid Kadhim Al-Jaberi					13	DF	Jade North				
15	DF	Ali Hussein Rehema Al-Ka'abi					18	GK	Bradley Jones				
17	FW	Alaa Abdul-Zahrah Khashen Al-Azzawi	72			64	19	MF	Adam Sarota				
18	MF	Abbas Hussien Rehema Al-Muttairi					21	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				
21	MF	Dawood "David" Haidar Al-Azzawi					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				
23	MF	Waleed Salem Al-Lami											
Team Coach		Arthur Antunes Coimbra "Zico"					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager		Riyadh Abdulabbas Atiyah					Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Lee Min Hu (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Lee Jung Min (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Yoon Kwangyeol (Korea Republic)											

Mohammed Kassid Kadhim Al-Jaberi is also shown as Mohammed Gassid.

Match report from the Asian Football Confederation

A pair of headers from Tim Cahill and Archie Thompson inside the final 10 minutes saw 2011 AFC Asian Cup runners-up Australia record a timely first win of the final round qualifying campaign for the 2014 FIFA World Cup after securing dramatic 2-1 comeback win over Iraq on Tuesday.

Second-half substitute Ala'a Abdulzehra's breakaway strike with 18 minutes remaining appeared to have handed Iraq their first win in Group B. But after Cahill netted with a trademark header with 10 minutes remaining, Thompson combined with fellow second-half substitute Tommy Oar four minutes later to propel Australia up to second place in Group B alongside Oman, who earlier beat Jordan 2-1, with the pair five points adrift of unbeaten table-toppers Japan.

I'm really happy with the result as we managed to make a good comeback and got three points which will put us back into contention, said Australia coach Holger Osieck. The result proved that we can make it as the win against Iraq was important. We were lucky even though it only came in the closing minutes. We managed to score from the chances that we had unlike the last match against Jordan where we were failed to score from the chances that we created and we lost the match.

Australia made a bright start to the contest with Lucas Neill signalling the visitor's intentions inside the first five minutes as the Socceroos skipper sent a rising strike over the crossbar following a direct run from the UAE-based defender.

Iraq goalkeeper Noor Sabri was called into action after 28 minutes as a vicious dipping strike from Cahill sent the custodian scrambling across his goal before thrusting out a hand after the ball had taken a potentially dangerous bounce just inside the six-yard area. Australia's dominance continued as the half progressed, but as seen in the last two away games against Oman and Jordan, the Socceroos were unable to turn that possession into what would be just a third goal of the final round against a well-drilled Iraq backline.

The story continued at the start of the second half as Mile Jedinak dragged a shot wide from the edge of the area nine minutes after the restart before Robbie Kruse wasted the best chance of the match as the Germany-based striker pushed his strike wide of the post from the edge of the six-yard area after expertly controlling Matt McKay's low cross.

Visiting captain Neill, who plays his club football for Dubai side Al Wasl, was then cautioned just before the hour mark after being adjudged to have impeded Younis Mahmoud just inside the Australia half as the Iraq skipper looked to chase down a hopeful long ball over the top.

With 20 minutes remaining Cahill then failed to connect with a free header inside the six-yard area following good work from Kruse on the left side of the Iraq penalty area. And two minutes later Iraq took full advantage as a swift counterattack caught Australia short at the back and Mahmoud was allowed time and space to head down into the path of the onrushing Abdulzehra on the edge of the penalty area and the second half substitute kept his cool to guide a low strike across goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and into the bottom corner. But the lead lasted just eight minutes as McKay's flighted corner found Cahill on the penalty spot and the midfielder leapt to power a header back across goal with Sabri rooted to the spot. And Australia completed the dramatic comeback just four minutes later as Oar crossed for Thompson to muscle in front of his marker before guiding a glancing header into the corner of the net with Sabri again left helpless.

Substitute Mustafa Kareem almost found an instant response for a shell-shocked Iraq, but Schwarzer stood firm to hand the 2007 AFC Asian Cup winners a second defeat in Group B to leave Iraq with just two points from their opening four games.

Our situation has become now very delicate as we are now in the last position in the group, said Iraq coach Zico. However, there are still four matches to play and hopefully we can get back into competition in the remaining matches although it will not be easy. We played well but we were unlucky. Despite the defeat, the result of the other match has opened the door for all the other teams. The points are so close and everything is possible in the next rounds of matches.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
14th. November 2012, 19.00			Hwaseong Stadium, Hwaseong, Korea Republic				Cold					21618	
Korea Republic..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Korea Republic..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
21	GK	Kim Young-Kwang					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
4	DF	Jung In-Whan				79	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
5	DF	Kim Ki-Hee					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
14	DF	Kim Young-Gwon				79*	6	DF	Michael Thwaite				
16	DF	Shin Kwang-Hoon				79**	11	MF	Robert Cornthwaite	87			
6	MF	Ha Dae-Sung				79***	3	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
7	MF	Park Jong-Woo					14	MF	James Holland				
9	MF	Lee Seung-Gi					16	MF	Carl Valeri				55
10	MF	Hwang Jin-Sung					7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				67
11	FW	Lee Keun-Ho				27	20	FW	Alex Brosque				88
20	FW	Lee Dong-Gook	11				21	FW	Nikita Rukavitsya	43			82
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Jung Sung-Ryong					18	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Choi Jae-Soo				79	9	FW	Eli Babalj				82
3	DF	Hwang Seok-Ho				79**	13	FW	Matthew Leckie				88
8	MF	Koh Myong-Jin		72		79*	15	MF	Tomas Rogic				67
15	DF	Kim Chang-Soo				79	22	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
18	FW	Kim Shin-Wook		77			23	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				55
22	MF	Kim Hyeung-Bum											
Team Coach		Choi Kang-Hee					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Wang Zhe (People's Republic of China)											
Assistant Referee 1		Han Wei (People's Republic of China)											
Assistant Referee 2		Zheng Weixiang (People's Republic of China)											

Match report from Football Federation Australia

Australia clawed their way back from a goal down to defeat the Korea Republic 2-1 in an international friendly in Hwaseong on Wednesday. Robert Cornthwaite poked home the winner with two minutes to play after Nikita Rukavitsya had cancelled out Lee Dong-Gook's sweet volley just a minute before half-time.

After a poor start, the Socceroos slowly worked their way into the game with Archie Thompson, Tommy Oar and, in particular, Rukavitsya the orchestrators of much of their good work. The loss was the Korea Republic's first on home soil in 27 matches since they were defeated by Iran in September 2010. With neither in World Cup qualifying action, the friendly provided both nations the opportunity to field experimental line-ups. Socceroos coach Holger Osieck handed debuts to four players - Aziz Behich, Tom Rogic, Eli Babalj and Matthew Leckie. Behich came on just before the hour mark, slotting in at left-back for Michael Thwaite, while Rogic was handed a 22-minute cameo in the middle of the park.

Oar produced Australia's first genuine chance in the fourth minute, flashing wide from just inside the box. But the Korea Republic soon seized the initiative with the home side's flowing play making the Socceroos look decidedly off pace. Lee Seung-Ki found a pocket of space on the left and stood up a delightful ball for Lee, who volleyed home unchallenged with impeccable technique to give the Korea Republic the lead on 12 minutes. Just five minutes later the lively Jin-sung Hwang saw his free-kick drift inches over the bar following a slight deflection and within moments, captain Dae-Song Ha had Mark Schwarzer sprawling across to thwart his fierce shot from long range.

The Socceroos continued to lack any real impetus with aimless balls and a midfield slightly off the pace the main causes. Rukavitsya soon changed all that with a couple of well-worked chances, including the equaliser. The Mainz attacker first saw his stinging shot glance inches wide of the post after cutting in-board past two opponents. That appeared to awake the visitors, who found the equaliser through Rukavitsya just a minute before the interval. Oar darted in from the left and found Rukavitsya on the edge of the area, who, after a neat touch, turned onto his left foot and slotted across the goalkeeper for his first international goal.

Both sides nullified one another in the early stages of the second half with few clear-cut chances. Osieck introduced his first substitute in the 57th minute with Melbourne Heart left-back Behich coming on for the ailing Carl Valeri. Thwaite reverted to the midfield while Cornthwaite continued to partner Lucas Neill in the heart of defence in just his second international. Australia started to look the more likely to find a winner with Neill and young gun Rogic trying their luck. Neill directed a header on target from a deep free-kick but Young-kwang Kim was good enough to parry it wide on 73 minutes.

The Korea Republic's Lee couldn't get the same purchase on a rather tame volley a couple of minutes later before Rogic produced a double chance for Australia. The Central Coast Mariner scuffed a shot while open deep in the box and then fired a more hopeful effort after a surging run through midfield. The visitors' endeavour finally paid off when Cornthwaite tapped in from a goalmouth scramble. Oar delivered a long free-kick and after Babalj steered his strike off the post from close range, the grateful Cornthwaite was best placed to trickle the ball over the line for the winner.

E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
3rd. December 2012, 20.30			Mong Kok Stadium, Hong Kong								4160		
Hong Kong..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, Hong Kong..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Yapp Hung-Fai					1	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
2	DF	Lee Chi Ho					3	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich		26		
12	DF	Lo Kwan-Yee					5	DF	Michael Thwaite				
15	DF	Chan Wai-Ho (c)					6	DF	Mark Milligan				
21	DF	Kwok Kin Pong					13	DF	Robert Cornthwaite				
4	MF	Bai He					22	DF	Ivan Franjic				
6	MF	Huang Yang					25	DF	Matthew Smith				
22	MF	Chan Man Fai				46	7	MF	Brett Emerton	86	52		90
23	MF	Chu Siu-Kei		12			17	MF	Matthew McKay				
9	FW	Lee Wai Lim				83	21	MF	Richard Garcia				81
25	FW	Jaimes Anthony McKee				87	10	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				70
SUBSTITUTES													
18	GK	Tse Tak-Him					18	GK	Mathew Ryan				
30	GK	Wang Zhenpeng					2	DF	Michael Marrone				
7	FW	Chan Siu-Ki		52		46	4	DF	Dino Djulbic				
8	FW	Lee Hong-Lim				83	9	FW	Eli Babalj				
11	FW	Lam Hok-Hei		88	90	87	20	MF	Tomas Rogic				81
13	DF	Cheung Kin-Fung					26	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis				90
14	FW	Cheng Siu Wai					27	MF	Aaron Mooy				
17	DF	Chiu Chun Kit					30	FW	Adam Taggart				70
26	MF	Luk Michael Chi Ho					33	DF	Scott Jamieson				
Team Coach		Kim Pan Gon					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Jumpei Iida (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Lee Hung Ping (Chinese Taipei)											
Assistant Referee 2		Musi Ala (People's Republic of China)											

This game was the second game of a double-header. The first game (ko 17.50) was DPR Korea..5 v. Guam..0

Match report from Football Federation Australia

A late Brett Emerton strike proved to be the difference between the Qantas Socceroos and Hong Kong, as the national team kicked off their East Asian Cup. From the opening whistle, the Qantas Socceroos controlled possession but could not conjure up any clear goal scoring opportunities in the first half, with the best attempt falling to Matt McKay in the 39th minute only to see his shot sail over the crossbar. The second half saw Hong Kong grow in confidence the longer that they kept the Qantas Socceroos scoreless. Kwan-Yee had Hong Kong first real shot of the match five minutes into the second period that brought out a save from Qantas Socceroos goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic. Kwan-Yee tried his hand just before the hour mark with another shot from outside the box, but again Galekovic made the save. Soon afterwards, Brett Emerton played a perfect through ball to Archie Thompson to go one-on-one with Hong Kong goal keeper Yapp Hung-Fai, but the custodian did well to come off his line and block Thompson's shot. In a bid to effect a change in proceedings, in the 70th minute Osieck substituted Thompson up front with Adam Taggart who made his senior international debut in the process. Taggart nearly had an impact soon after coming on when he chased down a ball to the by-line and cut back across goal, but unfortunately no teammates were on hand to finish. The 81st minute saw Osieck make his second change of the match with Tomas Rogic replacing Richard Garcia. Rogic's first touch of the ball was a shot on goal which Hung-Fai had to save. Emerton's match winner five minutes from time a deserved reward for a Qantas Socceroos team that had dominated the majority of the match. As the match headed to additional time, Osieck made his final change of the game and replaced Emerton with fellow Sydney FC midfielder Terry Antonis who also made his Qantas Socceroos debut. For the remaining four minutes of additional time, the Qantas Socceroos closed down the match and settled for a hard fought three points. In the other match of the evening, DPR Korea defeated Guam 5-0. The Qantas Socceroos will meet DPR Korea in their next match of the EAFF East Asian Cup qualification tournament on Wednesday 5 December at Hong Kong Stadium (Kick-Off 8:30pm local, 11:30pm AEDT)

E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
5th. December 2012, 20.30			Hong Kong Stadium, Hong Kong								989		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, Democratic People's Republic of Korea..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Ri Myong-Guk					18	GK	Mathew Ryan				
4	DF	Pak Nam-Chol					3	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
6	DF	Kang Kuk-Chol					5	DF	Michael Thwaite		56		
12	DF	Jon Kwang-I k					6	DF	Mark Milligan		15		
20	DF	Ri Kwang-Hyok					13	DF	Robert Cornthwaite				
8	MF	Ryang Yong-Gi					22	DF	Ivan Franjic		90		
14	MF	Pak Nam-Chol					25	DF	Matthew Smith				
15	MF	An Il-Bom				23	7	MF	Brett Emerton				
17	MF	An Yong-Hak	64	20			17	MF	Matthew McKay				
9	FW	Pak Song-Chol					21	MF	Richard Garcia				65
11	FW	Jong Il-Gwan					10	FW	Archie Thompson	3			78
SUBSTITUTES													
18	GK	Ju Kwang-Min					1	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
2	DF	Ri Hyong-Mu					2	DF	Michael Marrone				
3	DF	Pak Hyon-Il					4	DF	Dino Djulbic				
5	MF	Ri Myong-Jun				46, 78	9	FW	Eli Babalj				
10	FW	So Tae-Song				23, 46	20	MF	Tomas Rogic				65
13	MF	Choe Myong-Ho				78	26	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis				
16	FW	Ro Hak-Su					27	MF	Aaron Mooy				
19	MF	Hong Kum-Song					30	FW	Adam Taggart				78
							33	DF	Scott Jamieson				
Team Coach		Kim Jong Hun					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Mongkolchai Pechsri (Thailand)											
Assistant Referee 1		Sumate Saiwaew (Thailand)											
Assistant Referee 2		Lee Hung Ping (Chinese Taipei)											

This game was the second game of a double-header. The first game (ko 17.50) was Chinese Taipei..1 v. Guam..1

match report from Hong Kong F.A.

East Asia powerhouses DPR Korea and Australia came head-to-head on the third match day of the EAFF East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition (Round 2). Australia scored early in the game but was unable to hold on to the lead, allowing DPR Korea to tie and the game in a 1-1 draw.

Archie Thompson put Australia in front merely three minutes into the game. Mark Milligan's header from a corner-kick bounced off the DPR Korea post but the rebound hit Archie Thompson on the foot and drifted into the net, putting Australia ahead. DPR Korea wasted little time in gunning for the tying goal. On the 8th minute, Jong Il-gwan's cross was re-directed towards goal by the in-form Pak Nam-chol. However, Pak's header was saved easily by the Australia goalkeeper, Mathew Ryan. Australia tried to expand their lead and came close on the 32nd minute when Brett Emerton whipped in a dangerous cross that was met by striker Archie Thompson. Unfortunately for the Melbourne Victory striker, his diving header went just inches wide from the goal post.

DKR Korea launched a sneaking attack on the 37th minute when Kang Kuk-chol fired a surprising long-range shot from outside the penalty box. Only a full-stretched Mathew Ryan was able to tipped the ball above the crossbar and preserve Australia's lead. The Koreans kept pressing for the equalizer and Pak Nam-chol had a glorious chance on the 53rd minute when the attacker danced past several Aussie defenders and fired a low-ball towards goal. Aussie keeper Mathew Ryan proved to be equal to the task and made the save with ease.

Pak Nam-chol continued to be the main threat for DPR Korea, as his long-range missile on the 61st minute came tantalizingly close to hitting the target. The Koreans were still chasing the game at this stage.

DPR Korea finally found the equalizer on the 64th minute when a goal-mouth scramble saw An Yong-hak with the ball at the 6-yard mark. The Korean striker managed to get off his shot quickly and saw the ball deflected off an Australia player and went into the net. DPR Korea was back in the game against their Australia counterparts. Australia had a great opportunity to get back in front on the 84th minute when a sloppy clearance by the Koreans meant Brett Emerton was in front of the Korean goal with the ball on his feet. The Australia captain had to take his shot quickly before the Koreans arrived and his curling shot ended up sailing just high above the goal.

Both teams played out the game without any serious threat to each other. The match ended up in a 1-1 draw between DPR Korea and Australia.

E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
7th. December 2012, 17.50			Hong Kong Stadium, Hong Kong								2315		
Guam..0 v. Australia..9													
half time, Guam..0 v. Australia..3													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Doug Herrick		54			1	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
2	DF	Shawn Robert Nicklaw					2	DF	Michael Marrone	43			
5	DF	Micah Francisco Paulino					4	DF	Dino Djulbic				
19	DF	Dominc Tacadina Gadia					6	DF	Mark Milligan	71			
4	MF	Jonahan Anthony Romero					25	DF	Matthew Smith				
9	MF	Josh Borja				10	33	DF	Scott Jamieson				
10	MF	Jason Ryan Cuncliffe (c)					17	MF	Matthew McKay (c)				83
15	MF	Ian James Adamos				60	20	MF	Tomas Rogic		54		73
17	MF	Thaddeus Joseph Cardines Atalig					26	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis				
7	FW	Zachary Thomas Deville		42			27	MF	Aaron Mooy	12			
12	FW	Christian Michael Schweizer		45			9	FW	Eli Babalj	20, 56			56
SUBSTITUTES													
22	GK	Dallas Jeffrey Jaye					18	GK	Mathew Ryan				
8	DF	Ian Anthony Lujan Mariano					3	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				73
11	MF	Dylan Pinaula Naputi				10, 83	5	DF	Michael Thwaite				
13	FW	Ryan Michael Guy					7	MF	Brett Emerton				
14	MF	Marcus Phillip-Joseph Lopez				83	10	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson	58, 61, 63(pk)			56
16	DF	Mark Anthony Torres Chargualaf				60	13	DF	Robert Cornthwaite				
							21	MF	Richard Garcia	83			83
							22	DF	Ivan Franjic				
							30	FW	Adam Taggart				
Team Coach		Gary White					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti				
Referee		Wong Zhe (People's Republic of China)											
Assistant Referee 1		Lee Hung Ping (Chinese Taipei)											
Assistant Referee 2		Chan Shiu Hung (Hong Kong)											

This game was the first game of a double-header. The second game (ko 20.30) was Hong Kong..2 v. Chinese Taipei..0

Match report from Football Federation Australia

Archie Thompson became Australia's second-highest goal-scorer of all time and netted one of the fastest hat-tricks from a substitute in international football as the Qantas Socceroos hammered Guam 9-0 in Hong Kong. Holger Osieck's team were already coasting at 4-0 up when Thompson replaced Eli Babalj, and the introduction of the pacy marksman put hapless Guam's demise beyond doubt.

Thompson plundered three goals in the space of eight minutes on Friday, set up another for Mark Milligan with consummate ease and is now just one goal away from equalling Damian Mori's all-time record of 29 Socceroos strikes. The hefty win could prove crucial to Australia's hopes of qualifying for the East Asian Cup. Progression from the preliminary tournament is expected to go down to goal difference, and Australia's direct rivals North Korea could only manage a relatively pedestrian 5-0 win in their match against Guam, with both of the group's top-two teams now boasting a goal difference of plus 10.

While it will be difficult for Guam's unfortunate coach Gary White to remember, there was a time in the match before the flood gates opened. Central Coast Mariners star Tom Rogic enjoyed the first sight of goal in the fourth minute, drawing a smart save from Guam goalkeeper Doug Herrick. The deadlock did not last much longer and the Socceroos were ahead eight minutes later, Aaron Mooy scoring straight from a free-kick with the ball deflecting home off the underside of the crossbar.

In the 19th minute, Babalj combined with former Melbourne Heart team-mate Michael Marrone, who advanced down the right flank and crossed for the Red Star Belgrade striker to slot home from close range. Guam weathered a period of sustained pressure midway through the first half, with the frustration of Australia's coaching staff evident as a succession of chances went begging. Improbably, it looked as if Guam would survive until the half-time break just two goals down, but with four minutes left in the half, Marrone cut in from the right flank and coasted into the penalty area, dispatching a clinical finish beyond Herrick to make it 3-0.

Australia continued their assault on the Guam goal early in the second half, with Mooy guilty of a glaring miss from point-blank range five minutes after the restart. On 55 minutes Babalj did make it 4-0, tucking home after Matt McKay beat the offside trap and slipped the ball neatly beyond Herrick for his colleague to finish.

Babalj was replaced by Thompson moments later, and the Melbourne Victory man made a spectacular impact. In the 58th minute the veteran forward received a pass from McKay with his back to goal, turned sharply and blasted a strike past the despairing keeper. Less than three minutes later Thompson smacked home his second at the near post, and when Scott Jamieson was brought down for a penalty in the 63rd minute, there was no other candidate to take the spot kick. Thompson dispatched the penalty with aplomb, putting Australia 7-0 ahead.

He had a good header gratefully saved by Herrick in the 68th minute, before turning his hand to providing the goals. Bursting beyond Guam's static backline, Thompson checked, spun around and floated the ball to the back post, where Milligan arrived to casually nod home. The impressive McKay was withdrawn with less than 10 minutes to go, and his replacement Richard Garcia had no intention of missing out on the glut of goals. The Melbourne Heart midfielder had been on the pitch for barely 60 seconds when he glided beyond two defenders and prodded home for the Socceroos' ninth.

Mooy and Aziz Behich both went close to inflicting further misery on Guam in the closing exchanges.
Australia's final game is a winnable match against Chinese Taipei on Sunday, while North Korea's last outing is a more difficult assignment against hosts Hong Kong.

E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition, Round 2														
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
9th. December 2012, 17.00			Hong Kong Stadium, Hong Kong									3345		
Chinese Taipei..0 v. Australia..8														
half time, Chinese Taipei..0 v. Australia..5														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
18	GK	Lu Kun Chi					18	GK	Mathew Ryan					
2	DF	Wei Pei-Lun					3	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich	33, 56			73	
16	DF	Yang Chao-Hsun	82(og)				4	DF	Dino Djulbic					
24	DF	Huang Wei-Min					5	DF	Michael Thwaite					
10	MF	Chen Hao-Wei				81	13	DF	Robert Cornthwaite	17				
12	MF	Lo Chi-An					24	DF	Ivan Franjic					
25	MF	Hsu Che-Hao					33	DF	Scott Jamieson					
30	MF	Chiang Ming-Han					7	MF	Brett Emerton					
9	FW	Lo Chih-En					21	MF	Richard Garcia	10			56	
11	FW	Chen Po-Hao				74	27	MF	Aaron Mooy	46				
32	FW	Wen Chih-Hao				60	30	FW	Adam Taggart	19, 29			66	
SUBSTITUTES														
22	GK	Pan Wen-Chieh					1	GK	Eugene Galekovic					
4	DF	Wu Pai-Ho				74	2	DF	Michael Marrone					
5	MF	Tsai Hsien-Tang				60	6	DF	Mark Milligan					
7	FW	Chang Han				81	9	FW	Eli Babalj					
13	DF	Chen Yi-Hung					10	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				56	
17	MF	Chen Po-Liang					17	MF	Matthew McKay				66	
19	FW	He Ming-Chan					20	MF	Tomas Rogic					
							25	DF	Matthew Smith					
							26	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis				73	
Team Coach		Lo Chih Tsung					Team Coach		Holger Osieck					
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti					
Referee		Kim Dae-Yong (Korea Republic)												
Assistant Referee 1		Anuwat Feemuechang (Thailand)												
Assistant Referee 2		Chan Shiu Hung (Hong Kong)												

This game was the second game of a double-header. The first game (ko 14.20) was Hong Kong..0 v. DPR Korea..4

Match report from Football Federation Australia

The Qantas Socceroos have qualified for the 2013 East Asian Cup after an 8-0 thrashing of Chinese Taipei in Hong Kong on Sunday.

The Socceroos needed to win by five goals or more to secure top spot in the qualification group ahead of North Korea and had that tally wrapped up by the 34th minute. Holger Osieck's men went on to add another three goals in a dominant performance against a side ranked 176 in the world, 143 spots below the Socceroos. Adam Taggart and Aziz Behich netted braces, with Richard Garcia, Robert Cornthwaite and Aaron Mooy also getting on the scoresheet and Yang Chao-Hsun scoring an own goal. Australia had Chinese Taipei pegged back from the outset and opened the scoring on 11 minutes through Garcia. Behich beat his marker down the left before crossing for his unmarked Melbourne Heart team-mate to head in.

A long-range Behich drive was unable to trouble goalkeeper Lu Kun-Chi moments later and Michael Thwaite headed a Mooy corner wide when he should have done better. Mooy's corners were causing Chinese Taipei all sorts of problems and the Socceroos doubled their lead in the 17th minute. The set-piece was partly cleared before Scott Jamieson had an effort saved, only for Cornthwaite to tap in the rebound.

It was 3-0 just two minutes later when Thwaite took control of a loose ball in the middle and slid a perfectly weighted through pass to Taggart, who beat Lu in a one-on-one after the goalkeeper moved early.

Dino Djulbic had a header saved after another excellent Mooy corner before Taggart headed in his second after a Jamieson cross on 29 minutes. Taggart became the first teenage multiple goalscorer for the Socceroos since David Mitchell managed the feat in 1981. Garcia and Behich were denied before the latter got his maiden international goal in the 34th minute, with Lu fumbling his header over the line.

Australia only needed two minutes into the second half to make it six, with Mooy continuing to impress with his set-pieces. The Western Sydney Wanderers midfielder curled in a 30-yard free-kick of the highest quality, the second he has scored at the qualifying tournament. Chinese Taipei somehow survived a seventh three minutes later when they twice blocked shots off their line and Emerton, who was playing his 100th match, struck the post. Behich netted his second in the 56th minute after Garcia played him through and he finished neatly past Lu.

Substitute Archie Thompson, needing two goals to become Australia's all-time leading goalscorer, hit the post in the 72nd minute. There was a 26-minute wait for Australia's eighth and it came courtesy of unlucky defender Yang Chao-Hsun, who diverted an Ivan Franjic cut-back past Lu.

Thompson wasted a glorious chance to equal Damian Mori's record of 29 Australia goals, but he blazed a close-range effort well over after a neat pass from the impressive Jamieson. It was the last of the genuine chances as Australia qualified for South Korea 2013 ahead of North Korea on goal difference.

2013

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
6th. February 2013, 20.45			Estadio Ciudad de Málaga, Málaga, Spain				Good, Strong wind					200	
Romania..3 v. Australia..2													
half time, Romania..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Costel Pantilimon					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				45
3	DF	Răzvan Rat				46	2	DF	Lucas Neil				55
4	DF	Gabriel Tamas					3	DF	Michael Zullo				
6	DF	Vlad Chiricheș					8	DF	Luke Wilkshire	44(pk)			51
15	DF	Dorin Goian					13	DF	Robert Cornthwaite	53			
5	MF	Alexandru Bourceanu				56	7	MF	James Holland				
10	MF	Cristian Tănase	34			71	17	MF	Matthew McKay				65
11	MF	Gabriel Torje	83	59		88	23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				80
18	MF	Mihai Pintilii		5			10	FW	Robbie Kruse				
7	FW	Gheorghe Grozav				62	14	FW	Brett Holman				
9	FW	Bogdan Stancu	79				20	FW	Alex Brosque				
SUBSTITUTES													
12	GK	Ciprian Tătărușanu					18	GK	Adam Federici				45
23	GK	Silviu Lung					4	DF	Ryan McGowan				51
2	DF	Srdjan Luchin					5	DF	Rhys Williams				55
8	MF	Costin Lazar				56	6	FW	Matthew Leckie				
13	MF	Aurelian Chitu				88	12	DF	Jason Davidson				
14	MF	Dan Nistor					21	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				65
16	MF	Mihai Radut					26	DF	Mark Milligan				80
17	DF	Valerica Găman											
19	FW	Marius Alexe				62							
20	MF	Alexandru Maxim				71							
21	DF	Dragos Grigore											
22	DF	Stefan Radu				46							
Team Coach		Victor Pițurcă					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Carlos Velasco Carballo											
Assistant Referee 1		Roberto Alonso Fernández											
Assistant Referee 2		Juan Carlos Yuste Jiménez											

Match report from Football Federation Australia

Australia's preparations for their crucial World Cup qualifier against Oman took a blow following a 3-2 friendly loss to Romania in Malaga on Wednesday.

The Socceroos led 2-1 with 10 minutes to go but were unable to hold on as Bogdan Stancu and then Gabriel Torje found the net to put Romania in front. Cristian Tanase opened the scoring for Romania in the 35th minute, before Luke Wilkshire levelled proceedings with a penalty on the stroke of half-time. Australia took the lead through an unlikely source in Robert Cornthwaite in the second half but failed to stop the Romanian comeback at an all but empty Estadio Ciudad de Malaga. The Socceroos, second in Group B of AFC World Cup qualifying, will now turn their full attention to a vital clash with Oman in Sydney on March 26. Australia fielded an experienced side complemented by youth with Mark Schwarzer in goal, and Wilkshire and Michael Zullo on either side of Cornthwaite and skipper Lucas Neill in central defence. Robbie Kruse, James Holland, Mark Bresciano and Matt McKay lined up in midfield, with Brett Holman and Alex Brosque operating up front.

The Socceroos looked shaky in defence early on as Romania, third in Group D of UEFA World Cup qualifying, controlled the tempo of the contest. Torje had a golden opportunity to break the deadlock in the 16th minute, but his volley from inside the area sailed wide of the target. Australia were forced to wait until the 23rd minute for their first chance on goal as Kruse made an intelligent run down the right flank before crossing to McKay, who mistimed his attempt. Romania continued to contain the Socceroos and took a deserved lead after capitalising on a Wilkshire turnover on the edge of the area. Torje's shot was blocked by Schwarzer, though his effort merely rebounded into the path of Steaua Bucharest midfielder Tanase for a straightforward finish. The advantage lasted only 10 minutes as Romania captain Razvan Rat brought down Brosque, who was clearly fouled in the area after receiving a pinpoint ball from Holland. Wilkshire made no mistake from the spot with a powerful strike that beat Manchester City goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon and hit the roof of the net.

Adam Federici came on for Schwarzer to start the second half, while Ryan McGowan was handed his third cap in place of Wilkshire.

Cornthwaite handed Australia the lead in the 54th minute following a goalmouth scramble that resulted in his third goal in six appearances. The Chunnam Dragons defender, who scored in his return to the side against South Korea in November and the 8-0 routing of Taiwan the following month, somehow found the net after regathering his deflected first shot. Rhys Williams was brought on for Neill, who is suspended for the Oman fixture, and Nikita Rukavytsya replaced McKay as coach Holger Osieck continued to experiment and tinker with his side. Stancu had a chance to restore parity but drifted his shot across the face of goal before Federici made a superb save to deny a header from the Orduspor forward minutes later. Holman forced Pantilimon into a fine stop at the other end, but parity was restored when Williams was beaten at the near post and allowed Stancu to fire past Federici in the 80th minute. Williams was amongst the action again four minutes later when he conceded a foul, allowing Torje to curl in the winner from the edge of the area.

Australia 2 (Luke Wilkshire 45pen, Robert Cornthwaite 54)
Romania 3 (Cristian Tanase 35, Bogdan Stancu 80, Gabriel Torje 84)

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
26th. March 2013, 20.45			Stadium Australia, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales (Sydney Olympic Stadium)				Humid			27C		34603	
Australia..2 v. Oman..2													
half time, Australia..0 v. Oman..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mark Schwarzer (c)					1	GK	Ali Abdullah Harib Al-Habsi (c)				
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire					2	DF	Mohammed Saleh Ali Al-Musalami				
19	DF	Robert Cornthwaite		48			13	DF	Abdul Salam Amur Juma Al-Mukhaini				
21	DF	Michael Thwaite					8	MF	Eid Mohammed Eid Al-Farsi				84
14	MF	Brett Holman	85				10	MF	Qasim Said Sanjoor Hardan				90+2
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak	49(og)				12	MF	Ahmed Mubarak Obaid Al-Mahajiri "Kanu"				
16	MF	James Holland				53	6	FW	Raed Ibrahim Saleh		83		
17	MF	Matthew McKay					9	FW	Abdulaziz Humaid Mubarak Al-Maqbali	7			
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	52				11	FW	Saad Suhail Juma Al-Mukhaini		36		
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				68	17	FW	Hassan Yousuf Mudhafar Al-Gheilani				
20	FW	Alex Brosque					20	FW	Amad Ali Sulaiman Al-Hosni		55		68
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Ryan McGowan					3	DF	Jaber Mohammed Saghayar Al-Owaisi				84
3	DF	Michael Zullo					4	MF	Ali Hilal Saud Al-Jabri				90+2
5	DF	Rhys Williams					5	DF	Humaid Al-Gheilani				
6	DF	Mark Milligan					7	MF	Hussain Ali Farah Al-Hadhri				
7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				68	14	MF	Mohamed Salim Khalfan Al-Maashari				
9	FW	Tomas Rogic					15	MF	Ismail Sulaiman Al-Ajmi				68
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				77	16	FW	Yaqoob Abdul Karim Salim Al-Qasmi				
12	GK	Mathew Ryan					18	GK	Fayez Issa Khadoom Al-Rusheidi				
13	DF	Jade North					19	MF	Fahad Khamis Rashid Al-Jalabubi				
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					21	DF	Ali Salim Al-Nahar				
22	DF	Dino Djulbic					22	GK	Mazin Masoud Al-Kasbi				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				53, 77	23	MF	Juma Darwish Al-Mashri				
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Paul le Guen				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager		Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Al-Alawi				
Referee		Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Bakhadyr Kochkarov (Kyrgyzstan)											

Match report from Football Federation Australia

The Qantas Socceroos have avoided a huge World Cup qualifying setback, fighting back from two goals down to snatch a 2-2 draw with a spirited Oman at Stadium Australia on Tuesday night.

The Socceroos appeared headed for an embarrassing – and potential fatal – home defeat when the Oman's got out to a 2-0 lead four minutes into the second half. But a trademark Tim Cahill header and a bullet 85th-minute strike from Brett Holman spared the home side's blushes and ensured their hopes of getting to Brazil are still very much in their own hands. Despite producing one of their poorest performances on home soil in some time, the Socceroos almost stole all three points in stoppage time. Cahill, who was a handful from set pieces all night, rose highest to meet Luke Wilkshire's corner but the impressive Omani skipper Ali Al Habsi clawed it away to safety to ensure the visitors a commendable point on the road. The draw keeps the Socceroos in second spot in their group, level with Oman on six points, although Jordan could leapfrog both sides if they defeat Japan when they meet later on Tuesday.

The suspension of skipper Lucas Neill meant it was a new-look central defensive pairing of Robbie Cornthwaite and Michael Thwaite for the Socceroos and they were caught cold inside six minutes. The Australian

defence was caught square from a harmless lofted ball over the top, with Abdul Aziz out-pacing Thwaite to the ball. Socceroos goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer did his best to narrow the angle but the Omani striker poked the ball through his legs to give the visitors a shock lead.

While Australia were enjoying large chunks of possession, their passing was often too sloppy or slow to penetrate the well-organised a deep Omani defence. Indeed, Australia's best chances of a poor first half came from set pieces. Mile Jedinak, who struggled to impose himself on the match, leapt highest to meet Wilkshire's free kick on 25 minutes but his effort sailed across the face of goal and wide. The home side did finally force Al Habsi into a save eight minutes before the break. Cahill timed his jump perfectly to nod back McKay's centre into the path of Holman but his powerful header was well saved by Al Habsi.

Holger Osieck would have demanded an immediate response but the Socceroos gave themselves a mountain to climb when they conceded again three minutes into the second half. This time it was all their own doing. A quickly taken Oman free kick allowed Raed Saleh to get free down the right and his powerful, low cross was turned into his own net by a despairing Jedinak. But just as it seemed the Socceroos night was done, they hit back almost immediately through Cahill. Wilkshire swung in a pinpoint corner from the right with the former Everton man using his impressive spring to get up high and divert his header into the corner of the net.

All of a sudden the home side found verve and should have been level five minutes later but for Al Habsi did well to make himself big when Alex Brosque looked like pouncing. The Socceroos went even closer on the hour mark. Wilkshire's shot from the corner of the box took a deflection, with the ball looping over Al Habsi but agonisingly for the home side it hit the cross bar and bounced away.

Oman were struggling to deal with Cahill's threat in the air and he went close to equalising on two occasions from corners, but each time found Al Habsi too hard to beat. Just when it looked like Australia were running out of ideas, Holman delivered what could be a priceless goal. Substitute Tommy Oar did well to keep the ball in on the left, releasing to Holman who unleashed a dipping shot from 25 metres out that slipped under Al Habsi and into the net. Cahill's late chance almost won it for the Socceroos but they had to be content with a hard-earned point in front of just under 35,000 fans.

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone														
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
4th. June 2013, 17.34			Saitama Stadium, Saitama, Japan				Clear			23C		62172		
Japan..1 v. Australia..1														
half time, Japan..0 v. Australia..0														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
1	GK	Eiji Kawashima					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					
5	DF	Yuto Hagatomo					2	DF	Lucas Neil (c)					
6	DF	Atsuto Uchida				85	5	DF	Mark Milligan					
22	DF	Maya Yoshida					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski					
4	MF	Keisuke Honda	91 (pk)				8	DF	Luke Wilkshire					
7	MF	Yasuhito Endo					11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar	82				
10	MF	Shinji Kagawa					14	MF	Brett Holman				72	
15	MF	Yasuyuki Konno					17	MF	Matthew McKay		89			
17	MF	Makoto Hasebe (c)		22			23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano		87			
9	FW	Shinji Okazaki				87	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill					
18	FW	Ryoichi Maeda				79	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				90+3	
SUBSTITUTES														
2	MF	Masahiko Inoha					3	FW	Ivan Franjic					
3	DF	Gotoku Sakai					7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				90+3	
8	MF	Hiroshi Kiyotake				87	9	FW	Joshua Kennedy					
11	FW	Mike Havenaar				85	13	DF	Jade North					
12	GK	Shusaku Nishikawa					15	DF	Ryan McGowan					
13	MF	Hajime Hosogai					16	MF	James Holland					
14	MF	Kengo Hakamura					18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					
16	DF	Yuzo Kurihara				79	19	DF	Robert Cornthwaite					
19	MF	Takashi Inui					20	FW	Tomas Rogic					
20	MF	Hideto Takahashi					21	MF	Dario Vidošić				72	
21	DF	Hiroki Sakai					22	DF	Michael Thwaite					
23	GK	Shuichi Gonda												
Team Coach		Alberto Zaccheroni					Team Coach		Holger Osieck					
Team Manager							Team Manager		Gary Moretti					
Referee		Hawaf Shukralla (Bahrain)												
Assistant Referee 1		Yaser Khalil Ebrahim Abdulla Tulefat (Bahrain)												
Assistant Referee 2		Ebrahim Mubarak Sabt Moosa Saleh (Bahrain)												

the Football Federation Australia has Takashi Inui as the substitute for Shinji Okazaki but the Japan Football Association and the Asian Football Confederation has Hiroshi Kiyotake.

Match report from Football Federation Australia

A stoppage-time penalty from Keisuke Honda has denied Australia victory in Japan as the teams played out an entertaining 1-1 draw in Saitama on Tuesday night.

Tommy Oar's fortunate goal in the 82nd minute, his first at international level, appeared set to give the Socceroos a stunning three points in the World Cup qualifier. But Honda struck from the penalty spot in the first

minute of additional time after Matt McKay handled his cross in the area. It was a deserved point for Japan, who have qualified for Brazil 2014, while Australia are still well-placed in Group B ahead of home games against Jordan and Iraq in the next two weeks. Holger Osieck sprung few surprises with his starting line-up, which was surprisingly attacking and included Mark Milligan, Mark Bresciano, Oar and Robbie Kruse. Honda started for the hosts despite being under an injury cloud, but it was one of his midfield partners who had the first sight on goal in the sixth minute. The Socceroos were fortunate to escape unpunished twice in a matter of minutes. Veteran Yasuhito Endo curled a 30-yard free-kick just wide, but Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer appeared to have the effort covered. Maya Yoshida missed a glorious chance as he failed to get enough on a free header from a Honda corner before Endo blazed over from range on 16 minutes. The chances continued to come and Australia's first opportunity fell to Brett Holman, who hit an effort wide after being set up by Tim Cahill.

Australia were living dangerously and had Schwarzer to thank for being on level terms after 19 minutes. Brilliant interplay just outside the area led to a chance for Shinji Kagawa, but the Manchester United attacker scuffed his shot and Schwarzer produced a superb one-handed save. Surviving that led to a more composed Australian outfit, who dictated the tempo and were able to keep possession for longer periods in the middle part of the half. And the chances followed, with Kruse denied by a stunning Eiji Kawashima save in the 34th minute. Holman fed a wonderfully weighted through ball to Kruse, whose effort was saved by Kawashima in a one-on-one and Cahill put the rebound well over.

Osieck's men looked to slow down the contest heading into half-time and Japan were mostly unthreatening. Japan controlled possession after the interval and Honda and Kagawa looked dangerous. Kagawa was unlucky not to break the deadlock just before the hour-mark when his chip from the side of the area clipped the crossbar with Schwarzer beaten. Honda had two free-kicks from similar spots just outside the area, but one went over and the other straight at Schwarzer.

Japan dominated the half but Australia created a glorious chance with a quarter of an hour to play. Bresciano released Luke Wilkshire down the right and his cross found Cahill, whose shot was blocked by Yoshida. Schwarzer denied Yuto Nagatomo before the Socceroos scored against the run of play on 82 minutes. Oar continued to run at defenders and his cross-cum-shot floated in at the back post as Kawashima flapped at the effort. That looked to be enough before McKay moved his body towards a Honda cross, which hit the left-back's arm. Schwarzer looked unbeatable but Honda's penalty was powerfully struck down the middle, seeing the teams secure a point each.

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
11th. June 2013, 19.00			Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria (Docklands Stadium)			Cloudy			14C		43785		
Australia..4 v. Jordan..0													
half time, Australia..1 v. Jordan..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					1	GK	Amer Shafi Mahmoud Sabbah				89
2	DF	Lucas Neil (c)	84				8	DF	Mohammad Mustafa Hassan Ali				
5	DF	Mark Milligan					15	DF	Shadi Nadmi Abu Hash'hash				
6	DF	Sasa Ogrenovski					16	DF	Basem Fat'hi Omar Othman	85			
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire					19	DF	Anas Walid Khaled Bani Yaseen	85			
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				60	6	MF	Saeed Hassan Murjan				
14	MF	Brett Holman				79	7	MF	Amer Deeb Mohammad Khalil (c)				67
17	MF	Matthew "Matt" McKay					13	MF	Khalil Zaid Bani Attiah	21			
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano	15				5	FW	Adnan Suleiman Hassan Adous				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	61				9	FW	Odai Yusuf Ismaeel Al-Saify				67*
10	FW	Robbie Kruse	76			87	10	FW	Ahmad Hayel Ibrahim				
SUBSTITUTES													
3	FW	Ivan Franjic					2	DF	Mohammad Muneer Ahmed Al-Muattasim				
7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				60	3	MF	Yaseen Anas Al-Bakhit				67
9	FW	Joshua Kennedy					4	MF	Baha' Abdel-Rahman Mustafa Suleiman				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					11	MF	Ra'ed Abdul-Rahman Fraeh Al-Nawateer				
13	DF	Jade North					12	GK	Abdallah Fayiz Al-Zubi				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					14	FW	Abdullah Khaled Deeb Salim				
16	MF	James Holland					17	DF	Ibrahim Farhan Al-Zawahreh Essam Abdallah Ibrahim Mubaideen				
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					18	MF	Hamza Ali Khaled Al-Dardour				67*
19	DF	Robert Cornthwaite					20	FW	Mohammad Al-Dmeiri				
20	FW	Tomas Rogic				79	21	DF	Ahmed Abdel-Sattar Nawwas				89
21	MF	Dario Vidošić				87	22	GK	Oday Samir Zahran				
22	DF	Michael Thwaite					23	DF					
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Adnan Hamad				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager		Osama Talal				
Referee		Abdul Malik Abdul Bashir (Singapore)											
Assistant Referee 1		Tang Yew Mun (Singapore)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jeffrey Goh (Singapore)											

Essam Mubaideen is also shown as as Isam Al-Mbaydin (Football Federation Australia has his shirt number as No.21). The FFA has Mohammad Al-Dmeiri as shirt No.24

Match report from Football Federation Australia

The Qantas Socceroos took a huge step towards Brazil 2014 with a resounding 4-0 defeat of Jordan at Melbourne's Docklands Arena.

A first-half goal from Mark Bresciano was topped off by second-half efforts from Tim Cahill, Robbie Kruse and skipper Lucas Neill, who scored his first international goal in his 91st match. The win moves Australia into second place in the Group B standings with one match remaining, against Iraq in Sydney next Tuesday. A win in that match will guarantee the Socceroos a spot in the showpiece 32-team tournament in Brazil next June. The comfortable manner of this win, secured thanks to goals from Bresciano in the 15th minute, Cahill in the 61st, Kruse in 76th and Neill in 85th will give Australian coach Holger Osieck plenty of confidence going into what he hopes will be the final match of the qualifying campaign.

The loss ends Jordan's hopes of qualifying automatically and the best they can hope for is to earn a playoff spot with a win over Oman in Amman next week.

It took some time for a meaningful contest to break out, with long-range shots from Mark Milligan and Saeed Murjan eight minutes in the first signs of intent from either side. The early inroads for Australia were all being made down the right hand side, where Luke Wilkshire and Kruse opened up the Jordanian defence on 14 minutes, but Brett Holman, a beneficiary of a cross from Kruse, hit a shot straight at Amer Shafi while Bresciano shot wide with the rebound. A minute later, a similar piece of interplay between Kruse and Wilkshire found the former Melbourne Victory man with plenty of space and time to pick out Bresciano, and on the second time of asking the Melbourne-born striker buried his chance for his 13th goal in Australian colours.

Bayer Leverkusen-bound Kruse was relishing the return to his former home ground and after again finding room down the right, he teed up Cahill for a awkward close-range shot which sailed just wide. Jordan's best chances came from long range with Ahmad Hayel's 28th-minute effort fierce enough to concern Mark Schwarzer, who saw the ball whisk over his crossbar. As the half evolved, the visitors got a better handle on Kruse and as a result Australia's scoring chances were restricted to efforts from set pieces. Ognenovski failed to head accurately from a corner on 34 minutes, while Bresciano's powerful free kick was directed straight at Shafia just before half-time. Jordan looked a lot more composed early in the second half as they patiently attempted to break down a stubborn Australian defence, particularly down the right, where Matt McKay was under siege. Chances were fleeting and neither Hayel, with a header, or Murjan, with a long-range blast, could find the target just before the hour. With their own attacking chances drying up, Australia called on local hero Archie Thompson on the hour and the effect was immediate as he played a ball through to Holman, who found Kruse free on the right. His first-time touch for the cross was sublime as he picked out Cahill on the march at the far post. In customary style, the talisman nodded home to give the Socceroos a stranglehold on the game. The visiting team lost their impetus from that point and Australia pressed for a third. After a string of half chances, it was hardly surprising that Kruse, Jordan's chief tormentor all night, was able to turn charge into the box and seal the three points 14 minutes from time. Then it was party time for Neill, who had endured a long wait for an international strike but got on the end of a pair of headers from Cahill and substitute Tom Rogic to cap a great night for the home side.

World Cup 4th.Qualifying round - Asian zone													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
18th. June 2013, 19.30			Stadium Australia, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales (Sydney Olympic Stadium)			Very cloudy with rain			11C		80523		
Australia..1 v. Iraq..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. Iraq..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mark Schwarzer					22	GK	Noor Sabri Abbas Hassan Al-Bairawi (c)				
2	DF	Lucas Neil (c)					2	DF	Ahmad Ibrahim Khalaf				
5	DF	Mark Milligan					3	DF	Ali Bahjat Fadhil				
6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski		68			4	DF	Khaldoun Ibrahim Mohammed				
8	DF	Luke Wilkshire					6	DF	Ali Adnan Kadhim Al-Tameemi		85		
									Dhurgham Ismail Dawood Al-Quraishi				65
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					19	DF					
14	MF	Brett Holman				60	23	DF	Waleed Salem Al-Lami		24		
									Saif Salman Hashim Al-Mohammadawi		77		78
17	MF	Matthew McKay					8	MF					
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano					11	MF	Humam Tariq Faraj Na'oush		71		74
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				77	21	MF	Saad Abdul-Amir Al-Zirjawi				
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				78	16	FW	Mohannad Abdul-Raheem Karrar				
SUBSTITUTES													
3	FW	Ivan Franjic					1	GK	Jalal Hasan Hachem				
7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				78	7	DF	Hammadi Ahmad Abdullah				74
9	FW	Joshua Kennedy	82			77	9	FW	Mustafa Karim Abdullah				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					13	FW	Osama Ali Mohammed				78
									Halgurd Mulla Mohammed Taher Zebari				65
13	DF	Jade North					14	MF					
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					15	FW	Herdi Sejamahnd Sulayman Taher				
16	MF	James Holland					17	MF	Haidar Sabar Hassan				
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					18	FW	Amjad Radhi Yousif Al-Janabi				
19	DF	Robert Cornthwaite					20	MF	Muthana Khalid Al-Masloukhi				
20	FW	Tomas Rogic				60							
21	MF	Dario Vidošić											
22	DF	Michael Thwaite											
Team Coach		Holger Osieck					Team Coach		Vladimir Petrović				
Team Manager		Gary Moretti					Team Manager		Laith Hussein Shuhaib				
Referee		Faghani Alireza (I.R.Iran)											
Assistant Referee 1		Hassan Kamranifar (I.R.Iran)											
Assistant Referee 2		Reza Sokhandan (I.R.Iran)											

Match report from Football Federation Australia

A trademark header from striker Josh Kennedy has booked Australia's ticket to next year's World Cup in Brazil after a vital 1-0 win over Iraq at a packed ANZ Stadium on Tuesday night.

Needing a win to assure a spot at a third straight World Cup, the Socceroos looked like blowing their chance as the stubborn visitors held firm for more than 82 minutes. But in his first Socceroos appearance in 19 months, Kennedy came off the bench to nod home Mark Bresciano's cross seven minutes from time to send the crowd of 80,532 into delirium. Australia boss Holger Osieck received a few boos from the home fans when he opted to substitute favourite son Tim Cahill for Kennedy just a few minutes early. But the decision proved a masterstroke as Kennedy did what he does best, giving Iraq 'keeper Noor Sabri no chance with a well-placed header from just six yards out. The nail-biting victory means the Socceroos finish second in their group behind Japan and avoid going into the lottery of the play-offs later this year.

Knowing a win over the inexperienced Iraqis would ensure Australia's berth for a third straight World Cup, there was a sense of excited anticipation amongst the fans before kick-off. And they almost had something to cheer inside two minutes when Cahill almost opened the scoring. After combining with Robbie Kruse on the edge of the box, the ball eventually fell to Cahill who blasted a powerful left-foot shot which drew a brilliant reflex save from Sabri in the Iraq goal.

With the visitors content to sit deep and absorb pressure, Australia enjoyed loads of possession and continued to create meaningful chances, with Sasa Ogjenovski wasting a clear sight of goal on 15 minutes.

After Iraq failed to clear Luke Wilkshire's free-kick, Lucas Neill swung in a perfect cross from the right but his central defensive partner couldn't divert his header on target. The rest of the half followed a similar theme with the Socceroos probing without fully testing Sabri. When they did manage to get a sight on goal the opportunities were falling to Cahill, whose header from Wilkshire's corner lacked the power to trouble the keeper, while another shot went harmlessly across the face of goal. The best chance came 10 minutes before the break and again it fell to Australia's talisman. Matt McKay got down the left and swung in a cross which was spilled by the Iraqi skipper, the ball falling behind Cahill whose acrobatic effort over his shoulder went just the wrong side of the post.

Iraq made a strong start to the second half with Saif Salman's long-range effort forcing Mark Schwarzer to scramble down to his left to save inside the first two minutes. Australia soon regained the initiative with Bresciano getting two shots on goal in the space of a minute, one sailing high and wide and the other a tame effort straight at Sabri.

Searching for ways to unlock the stubborn Iraqi defence, Holger Osieck introduced young star Tom Rogic on the hour and the Celtic midfielder immediately lifted the tempo. The Socceroos thought they had the crucial breakthrough 25 minutes from time when a poor headed clearance landed perfectly for Kruse to volley home from just outside the box. But celebrations soon turned to despair as Iranian referee Faghani Alireza had already blown for a foul by Ogjenovski in the lead-up. The close call only added to the tension, which soon turned to shock among the home fans as Cahill made way for Kennedy. And the beanpole striker took just six minutes to make an impact, sending his header past Sabri to get celebrations underway.

E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Finals													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
20th. July 2013, 19.00			Seoul World Cup Stadium, Seoul, Korea Republic			Hot and humid			27C		31571		
Korea Republic..0 v. Australia..0													
half time, Korea Republic..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Jung Sung-Ryong					1	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
2	DF	Kim Chang-Soo					3	DF	Michael Thwaite				
4	DF	Kim Young-Gwon					4	DF	Ryan McGowan				
6	DF	Hong Jeong-Ho					13	DF	Jade North				
33	DF	Kim Jin-Su					22	DF	Ivan Franjic				
10	MF	Ha Dae-Sung					5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)		44		46
16	MF	Lee Myung-Ju					16	MF	Ruben Zadkovich				
22	MF	Yun I I-Lok				59	17	MF	Matthew McKay				
26	MF	Lee Seung-Gi					7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				
27	MF	Go Yo-Han				70	10	FW	Dario Vidošić				75
38	FW	Kim Dong-Sub				81	19	FW	Mitchell Duke				89
SUBSTITUTES													
7	MF	Cho Young-Cheol				70	6	DF	Robert Cornthwaite				
9	FW	Seo Dong-Hyeon					11	MF	Craig Goodwin				
13	MF	Han Kook-Young					12	GK	Mark Birighitti				
14	DF	Kim Min-Woo					15	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
15	MF	Park Jong-Woo					18	GK	Nathan Coe				
17	FW	Kim Shin-Wook				81	20	MF	Aaron Mooy				
19	MF	Yeom Ki-Hun				59	21	FW	Adam Taggart				
20	DF	Hwang Seok-Ho					23	DF	Joshua Brillante				
24	DF	Jang Hyun-Soo					24	MF	Erik Paartalu				46
29	DF	Lee Yong					25	FW	Mitchell Nichols				75
34	MF	Go Moo-Yul					26	MF	Connor Pain				
40	GK	Lee Bum-Young					29	FW	Tomi Juric				89
Team Coach		Hong Myung-Bo					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Yuichi Nishimura (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Otsuka Haruhiro (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Zheng Weixiang (China PR)											

Lee Bum-Young ia also shown as Lee Beom-Young, Kim Jin-Su is also shown as Kim Jin-Soo, Go Moo-Yul is also shown as Ko Mu-Yeol, Go Yo-Han is also shown as Ko Yo-Han, Cho Young-Cheol is also shown as Cho Young-Chul, and Seo Dong-Hyeon is also shown as Seo Dong-Hyun.

match report from Football Federation Australia

Eugene Galekovic produced an extraordinary display of goalkeeping prowess in Australia's opening match at the EAFF East Asian Cup, singlehandedly earning the Socceroos an improbable 0-0 draw against hosts Korea Republic. Led by newly installed coach Hong Myung-Bo - a hero of the 2002 World Cup as a player - the home side flew out of the traps at the Seoul World Cup Stadium. Laying siege to Australia's goal for all of the first half and much of the second, Korea Republic, cheered on by 31,000 passionate fans, did everything in their power to find the back of the net, but could not force a way past the inspired Galekovic.

Despite seeing his team earn a point, Australia coach Holger Osieck, who handed debuts to Mitchell Duke and Erik Paartalu, the latter off the bench, will take little encouragement from a performance in which the Socceroos struggled to mount a single meaningful attack. The German will surely demand an improvement in his team's second match against Japan on Thursday. Hong meanwhile will be left to wonder how his impressive young charges, many of whom played under him for South Korea's Under-23 team at the 2012 London Olympics, could not find a way past their stubborn visitors.

Having dominated the early stages, South Korea came inches away from opening the scoring in the 15th minute, when Galekovic was forced into a low save to deny Yun Illok. Twice more in the next five minutes the hosts went close, as the Adelaide United custodian kept out Lee Seung-Ki and Yun again, the former from a long-range effort which appeared destined for the top left corner of the Socceroos' net.

Next it was the turn of centre-back Kim Young-Gwon to threaten, forcing Galekovic into a flying save from a howitzer of a free-kick in the 29th minute. As the minutes ticked away, the chances kept coming, but only at one end. On 37 minutes Kim Dong Sub sent a glancing header just wide of the post, and followed it up with another attempt soon afterwards, Galekovic this time fortunate not to spill the ball at his feet.

Fittingly, the last word of the first half went to Korea Republic, as the impressive Yun fired a cutback straight at the visitors' inspired goalkeeper from just outside the area. All Australia could muster was one driving run from Ryan McGowan, who played in Archie Thompson, but the Melbourne Victory man's cutback went begging. McGowan himself had the Socceroos' only other chance of the half, sending a Dario Vidosic free-kick wide of goal.

Australia were afforded something of a breather early in the second half, as South Korea were restricted to half-chances from Go Yohan and substitute Yeom Kihun. The oppressive humidity had a role to play as the tempo dropped on both sides, but the home side did not give up in their attempts. Lee had arguably one of the best chances of the game in the 70th minute, denied only by the faintest of touches from the boot of Jade North. Six minutes later they went even closer, Yeom striking the post with Galekovic finally beaten, indicating it was not to be South Korea's night. They must now dust themselves off and prepare for a clash with China at Hwaseong Stadium on Wednesday. And it could be back to the drawing board for Osieck, who knows his team will not survive such a barrage unscathed again in the tournament.

E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Finals													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
25th. July 2013, 20.00			Hwaseong Stadium, Hwaseong, Korea Republic				Hot and humid			27C		1458	
Japan..3 v. Australia..2													
half time, Japan..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
23	GK	Shuichi Gonda					1	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
4	DF	Ryota Moriwaki					3	DF	Michael Thwaite				
6	DF	Yuhei Tokunaga					4	DF	Ryan McGowan				
26	DF	Daisuke Suzuki					13	DF	Jade North				
35	DF	Kazuhiko Chiba				81	22	DF	Ivan Franjic				
31	MF	Takahiro Ogihara				61	5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
20	MF	Hideto Takahashi					16	MF	Ruben Zadkovich				
14	FW	Hiroki Yamada					17	MF	Matthew McKay				87
21	FW	Yuyu Osako	55, 78	56			7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				75
32	FW	Manabu Saito	25			73	10	FW	Dario Vidošić				56
33	FW	Yohei Toyoda					19	FW	Mitchell Duke	75			
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Takuto Hayashi					6	DF	Robert Cornthwaite				
3	DF	Yuichi Komano					11	MF	Craig Goodwin				87
5	DF	Tomoaki Makino					12	GK	Mark Birighitti				
9	FW	Masato Kudo				73	15	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
11	FW	Genki Haraguchi					20	MF	Aaron Mooy				
12	GK	Shusaku Nishikawa					21	FW	Adam Taggart				
16	DF	Yuzo Kurihara				81	23	DF	Joshua Brillante				
17	MF	Hotaru Yamaguchi				61	24	MF	Erik Paartalu				
28	MF	Toshihiro Aoyama					25	FW	Mitchell Nichols				56
29	MF	Yojiro Takahagi					29	FW	Tomi Juric	78			75
30	FW	Yoichi Kakitani											
36	DF	Masato Morishige											
Team Coach		Alberto Zaccheroni					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Tan Hai (China PR)											
Assistant Referee 1		Zheng Weixiang (China PR)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jung Haesang (Korea Republic)											

match report from Football Federation Australia

Japan are in a strong position to win their maiden East Asian Cup after beating Australia 3-2 to register the first victory of any team at the 2013 tournament. Goals in the first and second half from Manabu Saito and Yuya Osako respectively saw Japan leading comfortably with the clock ticking down at Hwaseong Sports Complex. Australia, relatively toothless up to that point, suddenly drew level, bagging two goals in the space of three minutes from Mitchell Duke and Tomi Juric. However, Osako promptly restored Japan's lead less than 60 seconds after the Socceroos had equalised, sealing the victory and leaving Holger Osieck's men bottom of the standings with one point from two matches played. Japan, aiming to win their first East Asian Cup crown, are now top on four points, while China and hosts South Korea, both on two points, sit second and third as a consequence of the home team's inferior goal difference.

Osieck stuck with the same starting XI who battled to a fortunate 0-0 draw against South Korea in their opening game, and they started brightly, pressing their opponents high up the field. But Alberto Zaccheroni's men soon asserted their technical superiority, and opened the scoring in the 26th minute through Manabu Saito, who ran across the top of the Australian 18-yard box, evaded a challenge and dispatched a shot to the far corner of the net from an acute angle.

They should have doubled their lead with seven minutes to go in the first half, when Yohei Toyoda headed straight at Eugene Galekovic from a free header six yards out. Australia meanwhile were restricted to half chances, Matt McKay going closest with a half-volley from outside the area just before the break.

A slow starting second half came to life in the 55th minute, thanks to a wonderful piece of skill from Yuya Osako. The Kashima Antlers forward heel-flicked the ball from a short pass out in front of himself before running onto it and shooting calmly beyond Galekovic.

Australia pulled one back against the run of play with 14 minutes to go, when Nichols looped a ball over the Japan defence, allowing Duke to run and finish low beyond Shuichi Gonda, claiming his first international goal in his second appearance. Next it was the turn of another newcomer, Juric, to get in on the act, smashing home what was also his first international strike in his second appearance from outside the area to level the scores at 2-2 on 78 minutes.

Just when it appeared Australia had pulled off a remarkable escape act, Osako promptly found himself with plenty of space outside the opposition penalty area, dispatching a well-placed shot beyond a helpless Galekovic to seal the result in Japan's favour.

Osieck must now pick up his players and prepare them for their final match of the tournament against China at Jamsil Olympic Stadium on Sunday, with South Korea taking on Japan at the same venue later the same day.

E.A.F.F. East Asian Cup 2013 Finals													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
28th. July 2013, 17.15			Jamsil Olympic Stadium, Seoul, Korea Republic			Rainy			26C		10526		
People's Republic of China..4 v. Australia..3													
half time, People's Republic of China..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
23	GK	Yang Zhi					12	GK	Mark Birighitti				
3	DF	Sun Xiang					4	DF	Ryan McGowan				
15	DF	Wu Xi		27			6	DF	Robert Cornthwaite				
17	DF	Zhang Linpeng					23	DF	Joshua Brillante				
7	MF	Cui Peng		42		46	11	MF	Craig Goodwin				
10	MF	Zheng Zhi					17	MF	Matthew McKay (c)				66
14	MF	Sun Ke	56				20	MF	Aaron Mooy	29			
19	MF	Yang Ho				88	24	MF	Eric Paartalu				
20	MF	Wu Lei	87				19	FW	Mitchell Duke	90			
21	MF	Zhang Xizhe					25	FW	Mitchell "Mitch" Nicols				73
22	FW	Yu Dabao	4			63	29	FW	Tomi Juric				87
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Zeng Cheng					1	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
12	GK	Geng Xiaofeng					18	GK	Nathan Coe				
2	DF	Li Xuepeng					3	DF	Michael Thwaite				
4	DF	Rong Hao					7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				87
6	DF	She Ke				88	10	FW	Dario Vidošić				
8	MF	Wang Yongpo					13	DF	Jade North				
9	FW	Yang Xu	86			63	15	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
11	MF	Qu Bo					16	MF	Ruben Zadkovich				
13	DF	Liu Jianye				46	21	FW	Adam Taggart	88			73
18	FW	Gao Lin					22	DF	Ivan Franjic				
							26	MF	Connor Pain				66
Team Coach		Fu Bo					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Assistant Coach							Assistant Coach		Aurelio Vidmar				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Kim Dong-Jin (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Jung Hae-Sang (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Otsuka Haruhiro (Japan)											

match report from Football Federation Australia

China held off a late Australian comeback to win 4-3 at the 2013 East Asian Cup on Sunday, consigning the valiant but winless Socceroos to last place at the tournament.

Fu Bo's team took the lead early on at Jamsil Olympic Stadium, and although Australia equalised through Aaron Mooy's stunning long-range effort, China regained the advantage midway through the second half.

They added to their tally late on through Yang Xu and Wu Lei. The Socceroos surprisingly got two goals back through substitutes Adam Taggart and Mitchell Duke, but the rally arrived too late to salvage anything from the game, and they have just one point from their opening match - a 0-0 draw with hosts South Korea - to show for their efforts in Seoul.

As promised, Holger Osieck made several changes, handing debuts to Josh Brillante at right-back and Mark Birighitti in goal. Robbie Cornthwaite came in at centre-back alongside Ryan McGowan and Matt McKay dropped in to left-back. Mooy partnered Erik Paartalu in a new-look central midfield, while Mitch Nichols earned a start in attacking midfield, flanked by Craig Goodwin and Duke, who kept his place after impressing with his first international strike against Japan on Thursday. Tomi Juric, who came off the bench to score Australia's other goal in that 3-2 defeat, earned his first start at centre-forward.

Both teams began with purpose in oppressive humidity, but it was China who were rewarded first, opening the scoring in just the fifth minute of the match. Fullback Sun Xiang collected a well-placed pass in behind Australia's defence and cut the ball back to centre-forward Yu Dabao, who side-footed past Birighitti into the bottom right corner of the net.

It took Australia time to recover from that early setback, but they responded in emphatic fashion on 30 minutes, when Mooy unleashed a thunderbolt of a shot from 25 metres out which flew past Yang Zhi in the China goal.

Australia initially looked more comfortable early in the second half, but they could do nothing to prevent China regaining the lead in the 56th minute. Wu Lei advanced from wide right into the penalty area and found Yu, who struck a fierce shot at Birighitti. The Newcastle Jets man did well to keep it out but couldn't hold onto the ball, and Sun Ke was on hand to tuck home the rebound from close range. China sealed the victory through a well-taken goal from substitute Yang Xu, before Wu Lei weighed in with a fourth in the 88th minute. Connor Pain came on to make his senior debut, and was joined off the bench by Taggart, who registered what appeared to be nothing more than a consolation goal for Australia with mere minutes remaining after a mix-up in the China defence. When substitute Archie Thompson played in Duke for Australia's third, an unlikely comeback briefly appeared possible, but it proved to be the final action of the game, as the whistle of referee Kim Dong-Jin called time on an entertaining affair.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
7th. September 2013, 16.15			Estadio Nacional Mané Garrincha Stadium, Brasília, Brazil				Hot					40996	
Brazil..6 v. Australia..0													
half time, Brazil..3 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Julio Cesar Soares de Espindola					1	GK	Mark Schwarzer				
3	DF	Thiago Emiliano da Silva (c)					2	DF	Lucas Neil				
4	DF	David Luiz Moreira Marinho				60	6	DF	Sas Ognenovski				
6	DF	Marcelo Vieira da Silva Junior "Marcelo"				45	22	DF	Ryan McGowan				
15	DF	Maicon Douglas Sisenando "Maicon"				76	11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				58
16	MF	Ramires Santos do Nascimento "Ramires"	57				14	MF	Brett Holman				71
17	MF	Luiz Gustavo Dias	83				15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				63
18	MF	José Paulo Bezerra Maciel Junior "Paulinho"				61	17	MF	Matthew McKay				
10	FW	Neymar da Silva Santos Junior "Neymar"	34				23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				
20	FW	Bernard Anicio Caldeira Duarte "Bernard"				60	9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				78
21	FW	João Alves de Assis Silva "Jo"	7, 33			66	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Jefferson de Oliveira Galvão "Jefferson"					5	DF	Mark Milligan				63
2	DF	Marcus Luis Rocha Aquino				76	7	FW	Archibald "Archie" Thompson				58
5	MF	Fernando Lucas Martins "Fernando"					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
7	MF	Lucas Rodrigues Moura da Silva "Lucas"				60	13	DF	Rhys Williams				
8	MF	Anderson Hernandes de Carvalho Viana Lima "Hernanes"				61	16	MF	James Holland				
9	MF	Alexandre Rodrigues da Silva "Alexandre Pato"	71			66	18	GK	Mathew Ryan				
13	DF	Dante Bonfim Costa Santos "Dante"					19	DF	Robert Cornthwaite				
14	DF	Maxwell Sherrer Cabelino Andrade "Maxwell"				45	20	MF	Tomas Rogic				71
22	DF	Henrique Adriano Buss "Henrique"					21	FW	Mitchell Duke				78
Team Coach							Team Coach						
Assistant Coach							Assistant Coach						
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee													
Assistant Referee 1													
Assistant Referee 2													

match report from Football Federation Australia

Brazil have showed that they will be extremely difficult to beat on home soil at the 2014 World Cup after knocking off the Socceroos 6-0 at the Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha in Brasilia.

The Australians were under consistent pressure with Jo scoring a brace and Neymar, Ramires, Alexandro Pato and Luis Gustavo all getting their name on the scoresheet.

Jo opened the scoring on 8 minutes as Neymar beat Ryan McGowan down the left before chipping the ball to the far post. The cross found Bernard on the volley whose shot deflected off the woodwork and falling into the path of Jo who tapped in the opener.

With the Socceroos struggling to get into the game a poor pass from Brett Holman in the midfield saw possession turned over as Bernard sped down the right wing. The forward crossed the ball to a wide open Jo who put it past Schwarzer to have his and Brazil's second in the 34th minute.

It was 3-0 a minute later as Neymar got in behind the Socceroos defense and set up a one-on-one with Schwarzer, beating the Aussie veteran low and to the right.

It was more of the same in the second half as the Brazilians continued to put pressure on the Socceroos defense and when Maxwell crossed the ball in from the left it was 4-0 for Brazil as Ramires headed home.

Ramires was then unlucky to not get his second a minute later as he hit the upright as his side maintained a dominant share of possession deep in the Socceroos half.

The Selecao had their fifth goal when a give-and-go between Neymar and Hernanes saw Neymar pull it back for substitute Alexandro Pato who hit it low into the back of the net with 72 minutes gone.

The fluent passing from the Brazilians continued as the best goal was saved for last. Luis Gustavo received the ball just outside the box and drilled it into the top left corner beating an outstretched Schwarzer as the rout was complete.

The Brazilians had two thirds of possession, almost double the Socceroos passes and never let their opponents into the match. Holger Osieck's focus now turns to the Socceroos next friendly against France on

October 11 while Brazil take on Portugal this Wednesday

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
11th. October 2013, 21.00			Parc de Princes, Paris, France				Good					30000	
France..6 v. Australia..0													
half time, France..4 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Hugo Lloris (c)					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
4	DF	Raphael Varane					3	DF	David Carney				46*
22	DF	Eric Abidal				46*	16	DF	James Holland				
2	DF	Mathieu Debuchy	47				13	DF	Rhys Williams				
3	DF	Patrice Evra				64	2	DF	Lucas Neill (c)				
7	MF	Franck Ribéry	8(pk)			63	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
19	MF	Paul Pogba				63*	8	MF	Luke Wilkshire		52		69
11	MF	Samir Nasir					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				
20	MF	Loïc Rémy					17	MF	Matthew McKay				
6	MF	Yohan Cabaye	29			83	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				46
9	FW	Olivier Giroud	16, 27			46	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				80
SUBSTITUTES													
13	MF	Clément Grenier					25	FW	Dario Vidošić				
18	MF	Moussa Sissoko				83	21	MF	Oliver Bozanic				
5	DF	Mamadou Sakho				46	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
8	MF	Mathieu Valbuena				63*	19	FW	Nikita Rukavyt'sya				46*
12	DF	Gaël Clichy				64	18	GK	Mathew Ryan				
10	FW	Karim Benzema	51			46*	24	DF	Jason Davidson				46
17	FW	Dimitri Payet					9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				80
24	DF	Kurt Zouma					11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				
23	GK	Stéphane Ruffier					6	DF	Sasa Ognenovski				
15	DF	Rod Fanni					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				69
14	MF	Blaise Matuidi				63							
16	GK	Steve Mandanda											
Team Coach		Didier Deschamps					Team Coach		Holger Osieck				
Assistant Coach							Assistant Coach		Aurelio Vidmar				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Artur Manuel Ribeiro Soares Dias (Portugal)											
Assistant Referee 1		Ricardo Jorge Ferreira Santos (Portugal)											
Assistant Referee 2		Rui Licinio Barbosa Tavares (Portugal)											

match report from SBS

The nightmare worsened for Australia and Holger Osieck after France inflicted a second straight embarrassing 6-0 thrashing at the Parc de Princes in Paris.

In a performance that could spell the end of Osieck's tenure as national coach, the Socceroos were again torn to shreds just a month after a loss by the same scoreline against Brazil.

A France side brimming with superstars - led by the brilliant Franck Ribery - was ruthless against an Australian outfit that again looked disjointed and wasteful with any possession it had.

Reigning European player of the year Ribery was involved in most goals, in-form Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud scored twice in the first half while Real Madrid star Karim Benzema came off the bench to end his 16-month international goal drought.

Australia has conceded 19 goals in its past four matches and is in a state of disarray nine months out from the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

Despite guiding Australia to Brazil 2014, Osieck has been under heavy pressure coming into the match with reports Football Federation Australia (FFA) had already sounded out potential replacements.

The performance could be the final nail in the coffin for the German, although it's unclear if FFA will make any decisions before Tuesday evening's (Wednesday morning AEDT) international against Canada in London.

Tim Cahill and Luke Wilkshire returned for the Socceroos, 25-year-old Mitch Langerak was handed a debut in goal and David Carney returned after more than a year out at left-back.

James Holland was a surprise choice at right-back with Luke Wilkshire ahead of him in midfield while Rhys Williams partnered captain Lucas Neill in central defence.

But it was a night to forget for every Australian player.

Carney was substituted at half-time for youngster Jason Davidson while Nikita Rukavytsya was also brought on at the interval.

After Langerak had made a brilliant save to deny Giroud early, there was a touch of fortune as the host opened the scoring in the eighth minute through Ribery's penalty.

Carney was harshly adjudged to have hand-balled in the box, though his decision to raise his arms while defending a cross was bizarre.

Giroud added a second for France in the 16th minute with a deft first-time chip over Langerak after some good work from Ribery.

The in-form Arsenal striker had his double in the 27th minute and Ribery was again involved, combining beautifully with Manchester City star Samir Nasri who provided the last pass.

France was scoring for fun and midfielder Yohan Cabaye was able to get in on the act, blasting a long-range shot through Carney's legs and beyond Langerak.

France started the second half as it did the first, and the goals continued to flow.

Mathieu Debuchy scored in the 47th minute with a brilliant first-time finish after another failed Socceroos clearance.

It was 6-0 only two minutes later when substitute Benzema ended his baron run after some more splendid build-up by Ribery.

Australia had its first shot of the game in the 60th minute when Cahill fired over the bar from outside the box and it at least stopped the bleeding in the closing half-hour.

France made plenty of changes throughout the second half and some sloppy finishing - along with a few great saves by Langerak - prevented Australia matching its worst defeat.

Although Australia is already qualified for the World Cup, successive losses to end the East Asia Cup in July and two maulings to Brazil and now France have left Osieck dangling by a thread.

With Football Federation of Australia chief David Gallop in Paris to watch the game rather than the kick-off to the A-League season on Friday night the writing seems to be on the wall for the German coach.

Dutchman Guus Hiddink, who led Australia at the 2006 World Cup, would be the frontrunner to take over while reports on Friday suggested former France and Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier could also be in the frame.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. October 2013, 20.00			Craven Cottage, London, England				Good					3741	
Canada..0 v. Australia..3													
half time, Canada..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Milan Borjan					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				46
2	DF	Nik Ledgerwood				46*	2	DF	Lucas Neil (c)				
4	DF	Adam Straith					3	DF	David Carney				
15	DF	Doneil Henry					13	DF	Rhys Williams		58		68
17	DF	Marcel de Jong				60	24	DF	Jason Davidson				
5	MF	David Edgar					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				83
6	MF	Julian de Guzmán				25	16	MF	James Holland				
9	MF	Tosaint Ricketts					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				73
10	MF	Simeon Jackson				54	9	FW	Joshua Kennedy	1			62
7	FW	Iain Hume				46**	17	FW	Matthew McKay				
14	FW	Dwayne de Rosario (c)				46	25	FW	Dario Vidošić	52			
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Lars Hirschfeld					18	GK	Mathew Ryan				46
3	DF	Ashtone Morgan					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
8	MF	Kyle Bekker				25	6	DF	Sasa Ogdenovski				
11	FW	Marcus Haber					7	FW	Mathew Leckie	78			62
12	DF	Daniel Stanese					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				
16	MF	Jonathan Osorio				46*	19	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				73
19	FW	Stefan Cebara				46**	21	MF	Oliver Bozanic				68
20	MF	Samuel Plette				60	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				83
21	FW	Russell Teibert				46							
Team Coach		Benito Floro					Team Coach		Aurelio Vidmar				
Assistant Coach							Assistant Coach						
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Michael Dean (England)											
Assistant Referee 1		Michael Mullarkey (England)											
Assistant Referee 2		Peter Kircup (England)											

match report from SBS

Australia recorded a morale boosting 3-0 win over Canada in an international at Craven Cottage in London, with an opening goal arriving after just 26 seconds.

Joshua Kennedy headed home the first chance of the game to settle the nerves before Dario Vidosic doubled the lead after the break and Mathew Leckie scored his maiden goal for his country on 79 minutes.

The post-Holger Osieck era began in positive fashion as Australia rebounded from 6-0 defeats to Brazil and France with an encouraging showing.

While the performance under caretaker coach Aurelio Vidmar wasn't totally convincing, especially in the first half, there were plenty of encouraging signs for the yet-to-be-decided new national coach.

Australia will name a new head coach in the coming weeks with Osieck sacked immediately after the disastrous loss to France in Paris on Friday.

And the successful candidate, likely to come from the A-League with Ange Postecoglou the heavy favourite, will have some encouraging things to build on based on this latest performance.

Along with Leckie opening his international goal scoring account, youngster Jason Davidson also had an encouraging first start while 25-year-old defender Rhys Williams was one of Australia's best at right back.

Lucas Neil had a solid match amid calls for him to step doen, though Australia's defence was only tested in patches.

Neill equalled Peter Wilson's record of 60 matches as Socceroos captain. ****

Caretaker coach Vidmar made three changes to the side that fell in Paris, with Davidson named alongside Neill in central defence and James Holland pushed into central midfield.

Kennedy and Vidosic also returned as big guns Tim Cahill and Robbie Kruse were left on the bench.

Having not scored a goal in more than three hours of football, Australia were looking for an early strike to relieve the pressure.

Kennedy provided it before most of the 3.741 fans had found their seats when he finished off some great build-up

Williams and Vidosic combined out wide, with the latter producing a lovely backheel and Mark Bresciano finding Kennedy with a pin-point cross.

But rather than poot the foot down, the Socceroos were put under some heavy pressure throughout the first half.

Simeon Jackson hit the post for Canada while captain, Dwayne De Rosario should have equalised when he failed to capitalise on a sharp counter attack.

The Socceroos had a goal disallowed with Bresciano correctly adjudged offside in the 23rd minute while Mitch Langerak denied Tosaint Ricketts with an excellent point-blank save in the 30th minute.

Australia began to control the game and continued its dominance after half-time, with Vidosic doubling the lead in the 52nd minute.

The Swiss-based midfielder cleverly glanced in a close-range header in after Williams knocked the ball into the box.

Matt McKay almost made it three with a spectacular scissors kick before Leckie made it 3-0 when he headed in from David Carney's cross in the 79th minute.

Young guns Oliver Bozanic and Jackson Irvine were handed debuts off the bench in the second half, while Mat Ryan was given 45 minutes in goal and had little to do.

**** Lucas Neil was credited with equaling Peter Wilson's record of 60 caps as Australia's captain, however, Peter Wilson has 61 caps as captain.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
19th. November 2013, 19.30			Allianz Stadium, Moore Park, Sydney, New South Wales (Sydney Football Stadium)				Fine					20165	
Australia..1 v. Costa Rica..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. Costa Rica..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Mathew Ryan					18	GK	Patrick Alberto Pemberton Bernard				
2	DF	Lucas Neil (c)					3	DF	Giancarlo González Castro				
24	DF	Ivan Franjic					4	DF	Michael Umaña Corrales		66		
13	DF	Rhys Williams				47	6	DF	Oscar Esaú Duarte Gaitán				
21	DF	Jason Davidson					17	MF	Cristian Esteban Gamboa Luna				
25	MF	Dario Vidošić				61	5	MF	Celso Borges Mora				
10	MF	Robbie Kruse				77	22	MF	José Miguel Cubero Loria				75
5	MF	Mark Milligan				77*	8	MF	Bryan Josué Oviedo Jiménez				57
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak					9	FW	Jonathon André McDonald Porras				46
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				60	20	FW	Diego Gerardo Calvo Fonseca				46*
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				53	12	FW	Joel Nathaniel Campbell Samuels				
SUBSTITUTES													
9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				77	10	MF	Carlos Gerardo Hernández Valverde				
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					19	MF	Oscar Esteban Granados Maroto				
16	MF	James Holland					14	FW	Randall Brenes Moya				46
4	MF	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	69			53	7	FW	Kenny Martin Cunningham Brown				46*
20	MF	Tomas Rogic				60	15	DF	Júnior Enrique Díaz Campbell				57
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					13	MF	Eithel Ariel Rodríguez Araya				75
19	DF	Ryan McGowan				47	1	GK	Leonel Gerardo Moreira Ledezma				
17	MF	Matthew McKay				77*							
3	DF	Michael Zullo											
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				61							
14	MF	Oliver Bozanic											
Team Coach						Ange Postecoglou		Team Coach		Jorge Luis Pinto			
Assistant Coach								Assistant Coach					
Team Manager								Team Manager					
Referee						Hiroyoshi Takayama (Japan)							
Assistant Referee 1						Luke Brennan (Australia)							
Assistant Referee 2						Paul Centragalo (Australia)							

match report from Football Federation Australia

A trademark Tim Cahill header has ensured the Socceroos made a winning start to the Ange Postecoglou era with a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica at Allianz Stadium.

After a nervous start that saw them almost concede an early own goal, the hosts settled into their work and dominated a goalless opening stanza in front of 20,165 fans.

Cahill came off the bench in the 52nd minute and produced the defining moment in the 69th when he headed home a curling Tommy Oar corner, his 29th goal for the national team to see him equal Damien Mori's all-time record. His match-winner was not without an element of luck as the ball took a wicked deflection off Junior Diaz, but the Socceroos were worthy winners after dominating possession and creating the bulk of the chances in an encouraging performance.

Mark Milligan and Robbie Kruse starred for the home side while young-gun Tom Rogic looked dangerous in a 25-minute second-half cameo.

The Socceroos narrowly avoided disaster in the fifth minute after a major mix up between left back Jason Davidson and rookie goal keeper Mat Ryan. Ryan hesitated to a ball he should have claimed, leaving Davidson to poke the ball towards his own goal before Ivan Franjic saved the day with a desperate goal-line clearance. But the hosts steadied thereafter, enjoying a 10-minute period of total dominance as they peppered Patrick Pemberton in the Costa Rica goal.

Milligan, the dominant player in midfield in the first half, created the first half-chance for Mathew Leckie who was unable to find the target but earned an early corner in the seventh minute. Rhys Williams then sent a classy ball through to put Kruse one-on-one with Pemberton, but Kruse's first touch was too strong to squander a gilt-edged chance.

The Socceroos continued to probe, earning another corner from which Mile Jedinak fired a shot on goal from inside the six-yard box, but Pemberton made a comfortable save. Dario Vidosic dragged an effort just wide moments later and Leckie forced another save from Pemberton in the 15th minute with a header that lacked the necessary power.

The visitors finally got on attack and another hesitant clearance from Davidson caused another nervous moment for Postecoglou. The contest developed into an arm wrestle with not much happening for either side until Leckie squandered the best chance of the half in the 43rd minute after some beautiful lead-up work from Milligan and Kruse. Moments after receiving attention on his right ankle after a heavy challenge, Leckie charged onto the end of a searing cross from Kruse but he was unable to control his left-foot volley from point-blank range as an open goal beckoned.

The first chance of the second half fell to Costa Rica but Wellington Phoenix striker Kenny Cunningham miscued with only Ryan to beat from inside the penalty box. Jedinak answered with a shot that flew just wide after a nice one-two with Kruse. Cahill entered the fray moments later and, as he has done so often, produced the defining moment for the Socceroos.

2014

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
5th. March 2014, 20.00			The Den, London, England				Fine					7133	
Ecuador..4 v. Australia..3													
half time, Ecuador..0 v. Australia..3													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Adrián Javier Bone Sánchez				46	1	GK	Mathew Ryan				46
21	DF	Gabriel Eduardo Achilier Zurita				46****	6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
2	DF	Jorge Daniel Guagua Tamayo					22	DF	Curtis Good				68*
5	DF	Cristian Leonel Ramírez Zambrano				46*	2	DF	Ivan Franjic				
18	DF	Óscar Dalmiro Bagüi Angulo				46***	21	DF	Jason Davidson		39		
14	MF	Segundo Alejandro Castillo Nazareno	61(pk)				20	MF	Tomas Rogic				60
10	MF	Walter Orlando Ayovi Corozo					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	15(pk)			78
6	MF	Christian Fernando Noboa Tello					5	MF	Mark Milligan				
16	MF	Luis Antonio Valencia Mosquera (c)					11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				67
13	FW	Enner Remberto Valencia Lastra	77			90	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
8	FW	Felipe Salvador Caicedo Corozo				46**	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	8, 32			68
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Máximo Orlando Banguera Valdivieso					3	MF	Oliver Bozanic				68
3	DF	Frickson Rafael Erazo Vivero				46****	8	DF	Luke Wilkshire				
4	DF	Juan Carlos Paredes Reasco				46*	10	FW	Dario Vidošić				67
7	FW	Jefferson Antonio Montero Vite				46***	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak			59	46
9	FW	Fidel Francisco Martínez Tenorio	57			46**	13	MF	Adam Sarota				
15	MF	Fernando Vicente Gaibor Orellana					14	FW	Brett Holman				
19	MF	Luis Fernando Saritama Padilla					16	MF	James Holland				
20	FW	Édison Vicente Méndez Méndez	90+2			90	17	MF	Matthew McKay				
23	GK	Alexander Domínguez Carabali				46	18	GK	Bradley Jones				60
							19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
							23	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				68*
							24	MF	Massimo Luongo				78
Team Coach		Reinaldo Rueda Rivera					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Lee Probert (England)											
Assistant Referee 1		Simon Beck (England)											
Assistant Referee 2		Simon Bennett (England)											

match report from Football Federation Australia
10-man Socceroos go down to Ecuador

Coach Ange Postecoglou has plenty of work ahead of him but at the same time plenty to work with after watching the Socceroos go three goals up but in the end lose 4-3 to Ecuador at The Den.

Australia held a comfortable advantage thanks to Mile Jedinak's penalty and a brace from Tim Cahill, who, playing at his old Millwall stomping ground, broke Damian Mori's record to become the national team's all-time leading goal-scorer. But Ecuador came out after the break looking more like the team which finished fourth in CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying, and after Socceroos goalkeeper Mitch Langerak was sent off, the South Americans laid siege on Australia's goal to register an unlikely comeback victory.

Postecoglou made five changes from the team which beat Costa Rica 1-0 in his first friendly in charge in November. With Lucas Neill not picked and Rhys Williams injured, Matthew Spiranovic and Curtis Good were chosen at centre-back, the latter making his international debut. Mark Bresciano, Dario Vidosic and another long-term injury victim, Robbie Kruse, were all absent from the starting XI, with Cahill starting up front and Matthew Leckie pushed out wide. Tommy Oar came in on the left flank and Tom Rogic was deployed in the hole.

Australia started strongly, moving the ball quickly and worrying Ecuador with their pace in attack. Cahill enjoyed an early sight of goal in the sixth minute with a header that glanced just wide of the post.

Two minutes later he improved on that narrow miss. A driving run from Tom Rogic earned Australia a corner, which Tommy Oar swung in from the right. Mark Milligan, stationed on the edge of the area, headed the ball back into danger and Cahill was on hand to nod it home and enter the record books.

In the 16th minute, the Socceroos were awarded a penalty when Cahill went down after grappling with Gabriel Achilier inside the area. Jedinak stepped up to slot home the resulting spot kick with ease.

The Socceroos remained relatively untroubled by their opponents as the half progressed, and grabbed a third goal on 32 minutes. A quick break near the half-way line allowed Leckie to advance and swing in a cross, which Cahill dived to connect with and head past Adrian Bone in the Ecuador goal.

Langerak replaced Mat Ryan in goal for Australia at the break and the South American side made a host of changes, beginning the second half with considerably more purpose.

In the 57th minute their endeavour was rewarded with a goal from Fidel Martinez, who prodded the ball home after being found in a dangerous area by Enner Valencia's pass. Less than 60 seconds later they had a second and Australia found themselves down to 10 men. Langerak rushed out to try and clear a ball into the area but Valencia got there first, and the Borussia Dortmund man was shown a straight red card after sending the Ecuador forward flying into the air. The linesman initially raised his flag to signal Valencia was in an offside position but was overruled by referee Lee Probert, who spotted that the last touch came off Jedinak. Brad Jones became the third player to pull on the gloves for the Socceroos in the game, but he was unable to prevent Segundo Castillo from making it 3-2 from the penalty spot. The Ecuador onslaught continued as a series of substitutions from Postecoglou, including a debut for Alex Wilkinson, proved unable to stem the tide. In the 78th minute a counter-attack saw Antonio Valencia advance into the area and cut the ball back for namesake Enner Valencia to guide past Jones. With the clock ticking down it looked as if the Socceroos would survive to claim a draw, but an error from Wilkinson, who was dispossessed in a dangerous area, allowed substitute Edison Mendez to claim an injury time winner for Ecuador. For the Socceroos, it was a game of contrasting halves, Langerak's dismissal consigning them to hold on for much of the second 45 minutes. However, as Postecoglou stated post match, the new generation of Socceroos would learn "some useful lessons of what you can and can't do". The Socceroos will now look ahead to their farewell game against South Africa in Sydney on May 26, their final match before they head to Brazil.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
26th. May 2014, 19.30			ANZ Stadium, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales (Sydney Olympic Stadium)				Fine					50459	
Australia..1 v. Republic of South Africa..1													
half time, Australia..1 v. Republic of South Africa..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Senzo Robert Meyiwa				
2	DF	Ivan Franjic				54	3	DF	Thato Mokeke				
3	DF	Jason Davidson					5	DF	Anele Calvin Ngcongca		84		
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					4	DF	Thabo Nthethe				
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					14	DF	Eric Mathoho				
5	MF	Mark Milligan					10	MF	Thulani Caleb Serero				93
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				72	12	MF	Renelwe Letsholonyane (c)				
14	MF	James Troisi				46	18	MF	Thuso Phala				
16	MF	James Holland		26		73	6	MF	Hlompho Alpheus Kekana				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)	14			62	7	MF	Ayanda Patosi	13			65
7	MF	Mathew Leckie		80		85	23	FW	Tokelo Anthony Rantie				60
SUBSTITUTES													
8	DF	Luke Wilshire				54	19	DF	Buhlebuyeza Wilson Mkhwanazi				
9	FW	Joshua Kennedy				85	9	FW	Siphelele Promise Mthembu				60
13	MF	Adam Sarota					15	MF	Siyabonga Nhlapo				93
17	MF	Matthew McKay				46	16	GK	Ronwen Hayden Williams				
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					11	MF	Bongani Zungu				
20	MF	Dario Vidošić				72	8	MF	Themba Zwane				65
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					11	DF	Bongani Sandile Khumalo				
24	FW	Adam Taggart											
25	MF	Joshua Brillante											
26	FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran				62							
29	DF	Bailey Wright											
30	MF	Oliver Bozanic				73							
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Gordon Igesund				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Kim Jong-Hyeok (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Luke Brennan (Australia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Paul Centragalo (Australia)											

match report from SBS

Tim Cahill made sure Australia went unbeaten in its farewell match heading into the FIFA World Cup with a trademark header in Monday night's 1-1 draw with South Africa at Sydney's ANZ Stadium.

Skipper for the night, in place of the rested Mile Jedinak, Cahill pounced in the first half to cancel out Ayanda Patosi's opener for a depleted Bafana Bafana in what turned out to be a low key send-off for Ange Postecoglou's men in front of a crowd of 50,439.

With spots in the World Cup squad still up for grabs, the Socceroos rarely looked like a side fighting for a ticket on the plane to Brazil, with Postecoglou to cut three from his 30-man group on Tuesday before naming his final 23 on 2 June.

After an electric opening period Australia fell away as it toiled to break down a stubborn opponent on what ultimately proved a night of some frustration.

A catalogue of second half changes didn't help matters as Postecoglou was left with more questions than answers heading to Brazil where heavyweight opponents Spain, Netherlands and Chile await.

Australia began brightly with fullbacks Jason Davidson and Ivan Franjic given licence to burst forward at every opportunity.

And it was a deep Davidson cross in the seventh minute that saw the home side come close to taking an early lead.

Cahill did well to take the ball down with a deft touch and when it finally broke to Tommy Oar just outside the area the winger's well struck effort was tipped around the post by diving goalkeeper Senzo Meyiwa.

Meyiwa was called into action moments later to deny Mathew Leckie from close range as Australia stepped up the pace.

But it was Bafana Bafana, in its first attack, which took a shock 13th minute lead with Tokelo Rantie rampaging down Australia's right after midfielder James Holland had conceded possession just inside his own half.

His shot was blocked but 21-year-old Belgium-based striker Patosi was the first to react as he guided the rebound past keeper Mat Ryan.

South Africa's joy was shortlived though with Cahill - Australia's perennial saviour down the years - making sure the lead didn't last long.

Rising high to meet an angled Davidson cross from near the corner flag, a leaping Cahill rose above the poorly positioned Meyiwa to head home the equaliser within 60 seconds of Australia falling behind.

The goal spurred Australia with Cahill and Mark Milligan testing Meyiwa before a wasteful Oar - who was otherwise exemplary as he buzzed around with menace - fired over from eight yards when he should at least have hit the target after being set up by Cahill.

A weakened - but willing - South Africa had not come to ANZ Stadium to simply roll over and it broke with pace and precision to test an Australian defence which saw Alex Wilkinson and Ryan McGowan start in the centre back roles with Matthew Spiranovic rested and Curtis Good still not fit.

As the first half drew to a close, Australia appeared to run short of invention and ideas.

Postecoglou introduced Matt McKay at the break in place of an ineffective James Troisi.

South Africa asked the first questions after the interval with Rantie firing a powerful drive just wide in the 47th minute.

Australia suffered a blow in the 53rd minute with the impressive Franjic forced off with a leg injury following a collision with Wilkinson, to be replaced by two-time World Cup finalist Luke Wilkshire.

Postecoglou made his second change in the 62nd minute with Fortuna Dusseldorf flier Ben Halloran, who looked lively, replacing Cahill for his debut as the coach sought to inject some added energy as Australia struggled to lift the tempo.

Oliver Bozanic and Dario Vidosic also came into the fray in a raft of second half substitutions, which also saw the introduction of Josh Kennedy, whose late heroics against Iraq last year sealed Australia's World Cup qualification.

But the tall striker's arrival on this occasion 12 minutes from time could not change the outcome.

The closest Australia came to a winner was a stoppage time header from Bozanic which flew just wide.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
2nd. June 2014, 13.00			Arena Unimed Sicoob, Vitória, Brazil				Hot					No public access	
Paraná Clube..0 v. Australia..2													
half time, Paraná Clube..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
	GK						GK	Eugene Galekovic					X*
	DF	Edson Feliciano Sitta				X	DF	Luke Wilkshire (c)					
	DF	Gustavo Franchin Schiavolin				X***	DF	Ryan McGowan					
	DF	Carlos Ademir Santos Miranda				X*****	DF	Bailey Wright					
	DF						MF	Matthew McKay					
	MF	Lenadro Vilela Sales Teixeira					MF	Oliver Bozanic	18				
	MF	Thiago Humberto Gomes				X**	MF	Massimo Luongo					
	MF						MF	Dario Vidošić					X
	MF						FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran					
	FW	Carlos Antonio de Souza Júnior "Carlinhos"				X*	MF	Tomas Rogic					46
	FW	Giancarlo da Silva Moro				X****	FW	Adam Taggart	28				
SUBSTITUTES													
	DF	Rodrigo Schimdtlinger Mann				X	MF	James Holland					X
	FW	Júlio César Czarnecki				X*	MF	James Troisi					46
	MF	Marcos Vinicius Serrato				X**	GK	Mark Birighitti					X*
	DF	Anderson Rosa de Carvalho				X***							
		Arthur Lorendo "Arthur" Pinheiro											
	FW	Silva				X****							
	MF	Ricardo Ribeiro de Lima				X*****							
Team Coach		Claudinei dos Santos Oliveira					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Pablo dos Santos Alves											
Assistant Referee 1		Katiúscia Mayer Berger Marie											
Assistant Referee 2		Vanderson Antonio Zanotti											

match report from SBS

Rogic played the first half in the hit-out against the lowly division two side but was replaced by James Troisi after a performance that lacked intensity as the playmaker appeared sluggish.

On the other hand, midfielders Oliver Bozanic, Massimo Luongo and Ben Halloran put in strong showings in hope of being named in Postecoglou's final 23-man squad.

Rogic emerged from a tackle in the 10th minute walking slightly gingerly for a moment, which may have affected him.

But fears about his lack of game time and whether his body can withstand the rigours of a full 90 minutes appear to be justified.

No-one expected an explosive performance as Postecoglou has been putting his charges through rigorous bootcamp-like training.

And just like in the farewell game against South Africa, the Socceroos faded after looking dynamic and energetic in the first half.

Bozanic looked strong in the holding midfield role alongside Luongo, putting Australia in front in the 18th minute off a Dario Vidosic cross.

Halloran, playing on the right wing, exhibited pace as both he and Bozanic backed up their strong showings against South Africa when they looked dangerous as second-half substitutes.

Adam Taggart doubled the advantage in the 28th minute after Luke Wilkshire set him up, and the Newcastle Jets frontman could provide another option at the point of attack should Josh Kennedy's back complaint persist.

Troisi could have made it 3-0 in the 78th minute but misfired from point-blank range.

Postecoglou made a further two substitutes, bringing James Holland on for Vidosic late in the second half and giving goalkeeper Mark Birighitti the final few minutes between the sticks in place of Eugene Galekovic, who was barely troubled.

Socceroos line-up: Galekovic, Wilkshire (c), McGowan, Wright, McKay, Bozanic, Luongo, Vidosic (Holland), Halloran, Rogic (Troisi), Taggart.

match report from Paraná Clube

Em amistoso realizado nesta segunda-feira, dia 02 de junho, o Paraná Clube não conseguiu superar a Austrália. O placar final foi de 2x0, na Arena Unimed Sicoob, em Cariacica.

No primeiro tempo da disputa, a seleção australiana veio forte, e abriu o placar com Oliver Bozanic. Após, Adam Taggart marcou o segundo dos australianos.

Debaixo de sol forte e muito calor, os jogadores aproveitaram o intervalo para descansar, e o técnico Claudinei Oliveira para promover alterações na equipe. Cinco foram as modificações: Rodrigo Mann no lugar de Edson Sitta; Julio Cesar no lugar de Carlinhos; Marcos Serrato no lugar de Thiago Humberto; Anderson Rosa no lugar de Gustavo e Arthur, substituindo Giancarlo.

Durante o segundo tempo, mais uma substituição: Ricardinho no lugar de Carlinhos Miranda. O Tricolor mostrou um bom futebol e teve grandes oportunidades de gol, com Arthur, Rodrigo Mann e Leandro Vilela.

Após o apito final o técnico Claudinei Oliveira se diz satisfeito com o que viu, e afirma que os objetivos do jogo treino foram cumpridos. "O jogo foi bom. Nossa equipe se postou bem, estávamos enfrentando uma seleção com jogadores de Copa do Mundo e conseguimos o placar de 2x0. Não só o placar, mas as tantas chances que ocasionamos a Austrália."

O técnico ainda ressalta o valor do intercâmbio cultural. "Muitos jogadores jovens, de 18, 19 e 20 anos jogando, isso é importante para o futuro deles, como experiência. A oportunidade também serviu para ver os jogadores que ainda não tinha visto tanto. A gente vai ter um momento de parada depois do próximo jogo e vamos reavaliar esse elenco, a gente tinha algumas dúvidas e colocamos os jogadores exatamente para dar uma olhada", conclui Claudinei Oliveira.

Agora, o elenco se prepara para o retorno a Curitiba. Nesta sexta-feira (06), às 19h30 o Tricolor recebe em casa o Luverdense – MT. Em busca de três pontos e subir na tabela de classificação, o jogo é o último do Campeonato Brasileiro Série B, antes da parada para a Copa do Mundo da FIFA 2014.

A loose translation is:-

In friendly match held on Monday, 02 June, the Paraná Clube could not overcome Australia. The final score was 2-0 at the Arena Unimed Sicoob in Cariacica.

In the first half of the contest, the Australian team came strong and took the lead through Oliver Bozanic. After, Adam Taggart scored the second for the Australians.

Under strong sun and heat, the players went to the break to rest and coach Claudinei Oliveira made changes in the team. The five changes were: Rodrigo Mann in place of Edson Sitta; Julio Cesar in place of Carlinhos;

Marcos Serrato in place of Thiago Humberto; Anderson Rosa in place of Gustavo and Arthur, substituting for Giancarlo.

During the second half, there was another substitution: Ricardinho in place of Carlinhos Miranda. The Tricolor showed good football and had great scoring opportunities, from Arthur, Rodrigo Mann and Leandro Vilela.

After the final whistle the coach Claudinei Oliveira said he was pleased with what he saw, and stated that the objectives of the training game had been met. "The game was good. Our team was well chosen, we were facing a selection of players from the World Cup and restricted the score to 2-0. Not only the score, but also many Australian chances."

The coach also underscored the value of cultural exchange. "Many of our young players of 18, 19 and 20 years played, it is important for their future, for experience. The opportunity was also used to look at players who had not been seen much. We'll take a moment after the next game and reevaluate the line-up, we have some doubts where to put the players exactly and will take a closer look", concluded Claudinei Oliveira.

Now, the team prepares for the return to Curitiba. This Friday (06) at 19.30 Tricolor plays at home against Luverdense - MT. In pursuit of three points and to move up in the standings, this is the last game of the Campeonato Brasileiro Série B, before stopping for the FIFA World Cup 2014.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
6th. June 2014, 20.00			Estádio de Pituáçu, Salvador, Brazil				Warm					8500	
Croatia..1 v. Australia..0													
half time, Croatia..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Stipe Pletikosa					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
11	DF	Darijo Srna		84			2	DF	Ivan Franjic				
21	DF	Domagoj Vida		44			6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
6	DF	Dejan Lovren					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
3	DF	Danijel Pranjić				25	3	DF	Jason Davidson				
10	MF	Luka Modrić				59*	5	MF	Mark Milligan				81*
14	MF	Marcelo Brozović					7	MF	Mathew Leckie				85
9	FW	Nikica Jelavić	58			59	10	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				81
20	MF	Mateo Kovačić				59**	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				74
4	MF	Ivan Perišić				67	20	MF	Dario Vidošić				55
22	FW	Eduardo Alves Da Silva				77	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				66
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Šime Vrsaljko				25	8	MF	Oliver Bozanic				
5	DF	Vedran Corluka					9	FW	Adam Taggart				85
7	MF	Ivan Rakitić				59*	11	MF	James Troisi				81
8	MF	Ognjen Vukojević					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				12
12	GK	Oliver Zelenika					13	DF	Bailey Wright				
13	DF	Gordon Schildenfeld					14	FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran				55
15	MF	Ivan Močinić					16	MF	James Holland				74
16	FW	Ante Rebić				67	17	MF	Matthew McKay				81*
17	FW	Mario Mandžukić		64		59	18	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
18	FW	Ivica Olić				77	19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
19	MF	Jorge Sammir Cruz Campos				59**	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
23	GK	Danijel Subašić					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				66
Team Coach		Niko Kovac					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Francisco Carlos do Nascimento (Brazil)											
Assistant Referee 1		Alessandro Álvaro Rocha de Matos (Brazil)											
Assistant Referee 2		Cleriston Clay Barreto Rios (Brazil)											

match report from SBS

Australia showed some promising signs in its 1-0 international defeat to Croatia in Salvador in its final warm-up game ahead of the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

A Nikica Jelavic goal in the second half proved the difference in a match that never scaled great heights but showed that the Socceroos could compete with a top-class opponent.

Australia was compact throughout but a concern is the team's inability to threaten in front of goal, ahead of its World Cup meeting with Chile next weekend.

As expected, Ange Postecoglou selected a strong line-up with returning skipper Mile Jedinak in the heart of midfield with Ivan Franjic in at right-back, Alex Wilkinson in central defence alongside Matthew Spiranovic, Tommy Oar playing the No.10 role and Dario Vidosic's selection over Ben Halloran the only real surprise.

Mark Bresciano was a second-half substitute for the Socceroos as he searches for some much-needed match time.

Croatia started with regulars Ivan Rakitic, Ivica Olić, Vedran Corluka and Mario Mandzukic – suspended for the World Cup opener against Brazil – on the bench.

Mandzukic came on for Jelavic just after the goal and the Bayern Munich striker required treatment on his ankle late on.

The absence of Rakitic for the most part hurt Croatia, which, like the Socceroos, lacked the cutting edge to threaten often.

In the opening stages the green and gold looked the better of the two sides but as the first half progressed Croatia got into the game although neither side produced any notable openings in the final third.

Croatia came closest in the 20th minute as Eduardo, having been floored and requiring treatment moments earlier, forced Mat Ryan into a save down low to his right after a Jelavic cutback.

In a major worry for Croatia coach Niko Kovac, left-back Danijel Pranjić came off in the first half after twisting his ankle under a challenge.

Not much changed after the break although Croatia goalkeeper Stipe Pletikosa was involved for the first time 90 seconds after the interval, easily claiming a Tim Cahill header.

Croatia captain Darijo Srna came close with a free-kick in the 56th minute, but he curled a powerful 20-yard effort wide of Ryan's goal.

Two minutes later, a lapse in the Australian defence gave Jelavic a clear sight on goal, which he duly dispatched.

The ball fell to Luka Modric on the edge of the box and as Franjic lunged in to make a tackle the ball deflected to an unmarked Jelavic, and as Spiranovic and company appealed for off-side, he fired his left-foot shot past Ryan and in off the underside of the crossbar.

Both sides rung the changes after that point including the introduction of Bresciano for Tim Cahill on 66 minutes.

Other Australian changes included James Triosi and Matt McKay on for Mark Milligan and Oar, and Adam Taggart on for Leckie on 85 minutes.

Second-half substitute Ivica Olić tested Ryan from range as the earlier introduction of Rakitić gave Kovac's men more impetus moving forward.

The Socceroos would be content with the run out as Jedinak got through 74 minutes and the combinations in defence began to bed in.

World Cup Finals - 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
13th. June 2014, 18.00			Arena Pantanal, Cuiaba, Brazil			Clear			29C		40275		
Chile..3 v. Australia..1													
half time, Chile..2 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Claudio Andrés Bravo Muñoz (c)					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
4	DF	Mauricio Anibal Isla Isla					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
17	DF	Gary Alexis Medel Soto					2	DF	Ivan Franjic				49
18	DF	Gonzalo Alejandro Jara Reyes					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
2	DF	Eugenio Esteban Mena Reveco					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
21	MF	Marcelo Alfonso Díaz Rojas					7	MF	Mathew Leckie				
10	MF	Jorge Luis Valdivia Toro	14			68	5	MF	Mark Milligan		67		
8	MF	Arturo Erasmo Vidal Pardo				60	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		57		
		Charles Mariano Aránguiz Sandoval		86			11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				68
20	MF						23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				78
11	FW	Eduardo Jesús Vargas Rojas				88							
7	FW	Alexis Alejandro Sánchez Sánchez	12				4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	35	43		
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Miiko Martin Alborno Inola					20	MF	Dario Vidošić				
13	DF	José Manuel Rojas Bahamondes					17	MF	Matthew McKay				
19	MF	José Pedro Fuenzalida Gana					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
15	MF	Jean André Beausejour Coliqueo	90+2			68	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
9	FW	Mauricio Ricardo Pinilla Ferrera				88	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
12	GK	Cristopher Benjamin Toselli Ríos					14	FW	James Troisi				78
5	MF	Francisco Andrés Silva Gajardo					18	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
14	MF	Fabián Ariel Orellana Valenzuela					10	FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran				68
16	MF	Felipe Alejandro Gutiérrez Leiva				60	9	FW	Adam Taggart				
23	GK	Johnny Cristián Herrera Muñoz					13	MF	Oliver Bozanic				
22	FW	Esteban Efraín Paredes Quintanilla					16	MF	James Holland				
6	MF	Carlos Emilio Carmona Tello					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				49
Team Coach		Jorge Luis Sampaoli Moya					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Noumandiez Desire Doue (Côte d'Ivoire)											
Assistant Referee 1		Songuifolo Yeo (Côte d'Ivoire)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jean-Claude Birumushahu (Burundi)											

match report from SBS

Jorge Sampaoli's men stormed out of the blocks in the Group B affair, with Alexis Sanchez and Jorge Valdivia on target inside 14 minutes.

Australia's all-time leading scorer Tim Cahill popped up to head a goal back for Ange Postecoglou's side on 35 minutes, as it steadied the ship. And despite several chances - multiple off the head of Cahill and a brilliantly taken volley from midfielder Mark Bresciano - Australia could not find an equaliser but did gain plenty of fans as it fought gamely after Chile's red-hot opening.

Chile sealed the three points when second-half substitute Jean Beausejour struck from outside the area in injury-time.

The South Americans dominated from the outset and while they attacked down the left channel in the opening 10 minutes, they would soon garner much more joy from the other side of the Arena Pantanal.

Australia's time on the ball was minimal, although their one path to get in behind the Chileans would have been to draw their wingers forward and release the likes of Tommy Oar and Mathew Leckie. Oar almost got onto the end of a long ball through from captain Mile Jedinak in the fifth minute, which drew Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo out of his area.

Chile turned its possession dominance into a two-goal lead inside 14 minutes, with star forward Sanchez and Valdivia finding the back of the net. Sanchez finished after some scrappy Australia defence allowed Charles Aranguiz onto the right byline, and his chipped cross found the head of Eduardo Vargas. Vargas did not connect firmly with his header, and it fell fortunately to Sanchez, who side-footed into the back of the net, despite Australian custodian Mat Ryan getting a hand on the effort. Moments later, Valdivia was left unmarked at the edge of the area, and Sanchez found him with a pinpoint pass and the Palmeiras midfielder tucked his shot in off the cross bar to double the South Americans' advantage.

Australia found its footing in the contest when Cahill buried a vintage header in the 35th minute. Ivan Franjic's cross from the right found the New York Red Bulls striker in the box, and he leapt higher than Chile centre-back Gary Medel to power home past Bravo.

Cahill almost made it two in as many minutes, but Bravo was up to the task with his right-foot effort from a tight angle as Australia's belief grew. Its new-found confidence also saw it susceptible at the back when Mauricio Isla got in behind, forcing Australian left-back Jason Davidson to clear for a corner. Injury struck Australia's Franjic early in the second half - with Ryan McGowan replacing right-back Franjic - although it did not halt their push for an equaliser. Oar found the head of Cahill with a brilliant ball from the left on 50 minutes but he failed to connect with any vigour - and the front man claimed he was fouled in the area. Cahill had even more reason to be aggrieved when his buried header in the 53rd minute was disallowed, albeit rightly so, by the offside flag. Bresciano then fired a left-foot volley on target, forcing Bravo to save low to his left as Australia's prowess from crosses intensified. Bravo finally decided to clear the danger himself on Australia's next ball into the box, storming off his line to collect in a small win for Postecoglou's men. However, Chile was always just one goal away from seeing off the Australian resurgence and Vargas poked a goalbound effort past Ryan only for centre-back Alex Wilkinson to clear off the line. Leckie was running hard at Chile's defence and his barnstorming run in the 66th minute failed to see him fire off a shot, but the FSV Frankfurt man had put left-back Eugenio Mena on notice. Cahill kept jumping and troubling the Chileans and in the 70th minute he sent a header just over Bravo's crossbar. But there would be no late joy for the Australians, as Chile held on to gain a vital three points for its knockout-stage hopes.

World Cup Finals - 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
18th. June 2014, 13.00			Estadio Beira-Rio, Porto Alegre, Brazil			Partly cloudy			14C		42877		
Netherlands..3 v. Australia..2													
half time, Netherlands..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Jacobus Cillessen					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Ron Peter Vlaar					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
3	DF	Stefan de Vrij					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
4	DF	Rolando Maximiliano Martins Indi				45	6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
5	DF	Daley Blind					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
6	MF	Nigel de Jong					11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				77
8	MF	Jonathan Alexander de Guzman				78	23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				51
7	DF	Daryl Janmaat					17	MF	Matthew McKay				
11	FW	Arjen Robben	20				7	MF	Mathew Leckie				
9	FW	Robin van Persie (c)	58	47		87	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	54(pk)			
10	MF	Wesley Sneijder					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	21	43		69
SUBSTITUTES													
19	FW	Dirk Klaas Jan Huntelaar					13	MF	Oliver Bozanic				51
20	MF	Georginio Wijnaldum				78	9	FW	Adam Taggart				77
13	DF	Joël Ivo Veltman					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
17	FW	Jeremain Marciano Lens				87	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
18	MF	Leroy Johan Fer					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
16	MF	Jordy Clasie					18	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
21	FW	Memphis Depay	68			45	5	MF	Mark Milligan				
14	DF	Terence Kongolo					14	FW	James Troisi				
23	GK	Timothy Michael Krul					10	FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran				69
22	GK	Michel Vorm					20	MF	Dario Vidošić				
15	FW	Dirk Kuyt					16	MF	James Holland				
12	DF	Paul Johannes Gerardus Verhaegh											
Team Coach		Louis van Gaal					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Djamel Haimoudi (Algeria)											
Assistant Referee 1		Redouane Achik (Morocco)											
Assistant Referee 2		Abdelhak Etchiali (Algeria)											

Match report from Football Federation Australia
Thanks to the greatest goal in Australia's World Cup history, the Socceroos got close to Holland losing 3-2 in a superbly entertaining contest in Porto Alegre. In the two sides' second group stage game at the World Cup, a first half goal to Arjen Robben was cancelled out by Tim Cahill's extraordinary strike 60 seconds later. His volley set to go down in Australian sporting history, though it was soured by a yellow card that sees Cahill miss the final group game against Spain. Mile Jedinak's penalty in the second half put the Aussies 2-1 up before Robin van Persie smashed home a brilliant goal to equalise and substitute Memphis Depay grabbed a third for Holland later in the second half. In perfect conditions at Estadio Beira-Rio in Porto Alegre, the first half began positively for Australia with a clearly more confident start than the Chile opener five days earlier. The first real opportunity came after 15 minutes with Matt Leckie picking up a loose pass inside the Dutch half to push forward and set up Mark Bresciano whose subsequent shot was deflected for a corner. The Dutch created their first good chance from an Aussie turnover but Wesley Sneijder's ball through was too heavy for Robben.

It was a warning and a minute later Robben profited from a cheap turnover, broke on the counter, powered through to the box and slotted home past a trailing leg and under Mat Ryan. But within seconds Tim Cahill scored what could be a goal of the tournament with an unbelievable strike. McGowan's long angled cross found the Socceroo talisman in the box and his first time volley - while moving away from the ball as it came over his shoulder - rocketed in off the underside of the bar and in. It was without doubt the greatest ever Socceroo goal at World Cup level as the fans erupted in the stands and back home. And it could've been 2-1 with a great opportunity opened up by Leckie's cut back but Bresciano powered over the bar. As the Aussies continued to press, Spiranovic then found himself with space in the box from a set piece but scuffed a golden opportunity to double the score. Oar was put through for another chance but his shot was blocked in the box as the Australians grew in confidence. A yellow for Cahill with a late challenge just on half-time meant he will miss the Spain game – one of the few low points in a stunning first half for the Socceroos who went into the break 1-1. The Dutch moved to a 4-3-3 in the second half as they turned the screws. Van Persie was soon in the book will miss the final group game against Chile. Sneijder's long range shot went close as the game changed in Holland's favour. But the Aussies showed they still meant business. The influential Bresciano was subbed off for Oliver Bozanic on 50 minutes and it had immediate effects with the Lucern FC man winning a penalty for a handball. Mile Jedinak stepped up and coolly sent the keeper the wrong way to make it 2-1. And it could've been 3-1 with shambolic Dutch defending resulting in a turnover but Cahill's dink through was just too over hit and McKay's was forced too wide to cause any danger. Australia would rue that chance with van Persie finding space in the box just minutes later to smash home a superb equaliser. It was end-to-end stuff in one of the best games at the World Cup. More terrible defending from Holland in the box and Oar had an excellent chance to score. Inexplicably, he chose to cross in the box when he should have shot and the Dutch survived somehow. Again the Socceroos were made to pay minutes later with Depay's swerving shot deceiving Ryan in goal to put the Dutch in the lead 3-2 with around 20 minutes left. Desperate defending kept Holland out moments later as the Oranje powered home with a glut of chances. Hyundai A-League golden boot Adam Taggart came on for Oar as the Socceroos looked to press for an equaliser in the final stages of a pulsating contest. Fatigue set in but the Australians continued to push against a Holland side looking to hold on to their slim advantage. Ryan saved a certain fourth goal in time added on to deny the Dutch in a frantic finish. But it was too late. The Australians lost but won many admirers with a stunning display of courage and style.

World Cup Finals - 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
23rd. June 2014, 13.00			Arena da Baixada, Curitiba, Brazil			Sunny			18C		39375		
Spain..3 v. Australia..0													
half time, Spain..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
23	GK	José Manuel Reina Paez					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
5	DF	Juan Francisco Torres Belén					19	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
2	DF	Raúl Albiol Tortajada					22	DF	Ryan McGowan				
15	DF	Sergio Ramos García (c)		62			6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic		88		
18	DF	Jordi Alba Ramos					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
6	MF	Andrés Iniesta Luján					17	MF	Matthew McKay				
17	MF	Jorge "Koke" Resurrección Merodio					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		90+2		
14	MF	Xabier "Xabi" Alonso Olano				83	11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				61
20	MF	Santiago "Santi" Cazorla González				68	13	MF	Oliver Bozanic				72
9	FW	Fernando José Torres Sanz	69				7	MF	Mathew Leckie				
7	FW	David Villa Sánchez	36				9	FW	Adam Taggart				46
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Iker Casillas Fernández					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
12	GK	David de Gea Quintana					18	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
3	DF	Gerard Piqué i Bernabeu					5	MF	Mark Milligan				
4	MF	Javier "Javi" Martínez Aginaga					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
8	MF	Xavier "Xavi" Hernández i Creus					10	FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran				46
10	MF	Francesc "Cesc" Fàbregas Soler				68	14	FW	James Troisi				61
11	FW	Pedro Eliezer Rodríguez Ledesma					16	MF	James Holland				
13	MF	Juan Manuel Mata García	82			56	20	MF	Dario Vidošić				
16	MF	Sergio Busquets Burgos					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
19	FW	Diego da Silva Costa					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				72
21	MF	David Josué Jiménez Silva				83							
22	DF	César Azpilicueta Tanco											
Team Coach		Vicente del Bosque					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Nawaf Abdullah Ghayyath Shukralla (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yaser Khalil Ebrahim Abdulla Tulefat (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Ebrahim Mubarak Sabt Moosa Saleh (Bahrain)											

Match report from Football Federation Australia

The Socceroos have signed off from the World Cup with a 3-0 loss to a classy Spain thanks to goals from Hyundai A-League bound David Villa, Fernando Torres and Juan Mata.

It was a game that Australia started strongly but Spain worked their way into the contest with Villa's first half back heel giving Vicente Del Bosque's side a worthy half time lead.

Torres made it two in the second half after of a brilliant through ball from Andres Iniesta with Mata making it three late on.

After two eye-catching performances against Chile and Holland, the Socceroos were unable to find a way past the super Spaniards who rarely got out of second gear.

The Socceroos started with Adam Taggart up front for suspended Tim Cahill and Oliver Bozanic as the central playmaker in place of injured Mark Bresciano.

On a disappointing pitch that had many players struggling to keep their feet, the Socceroos started the first half in whirlwind fashion.

A low shot from distance by Matt Leckie whizzed past Pepe Reina's goal as the Aussies sent a clear warning in the first five minutes with their energetic pressing.

Melbourne City bound David Villa was the main outlet for Spain down the left flank for Spain but it was the Socceroos dominating possession and playing at a higher intensity.

On 20 minutes, Spain's first real chance saw Iniesta's ball across the box finding Villa but his shot skewed wide.

Villa again found space outside the box for Jordi Alba to run on and smash a shot straight at Mat Ryan as the Spaniards began to find their feet on the Arena da Baixada surface.

The pace of the game slowed by the half hour mark which suited Spain and it was Villa again tormenting the Socceroo defence with a step over to find space but his low cross just failed to find Torres.

But it was no surprise that Villa would open the scoring.

Iniesta's perfect ball split the Aussie defence on the left and Juanfran ran through, crossed from the byline for the legendary Spaniard on his own to back heel past Ryan to open the scoring.

Australia almost equalised straight from the kick-off but Spain cleared the danger with Taggart threatening.

It could've been 2-0 with Villa again the architect but Santi Cazorla's pull back was intercepted by Alex Wilkinson.

A goal down at the break and there was plenty to ponder for Ange Postecoglou.

Changes were made though with Ben Halloran on for Taggart and Leckie moving to a central role for the second half.

Leckie's pace gave the Aussies a half chance early but his lay off into the box for Oar failed to trouble Spain. But the Utrecht striker hurt his knee in the process and was subbed off for James Troisi on the hour mark.

The Socceroos got back on top of the Spanish with Halloran asking a few questions of Jordi Alba down the Aussie right. But with momentum shifting to the Socceroos it was the Spanish who easily opened up the Socceroo defence with Iniesta's slide rule ball and Torres slid home past Ryan to make it 2-0.

Mark Bresciano's arrival in place of Bozanic gave the Aussies an extra edge in the middle of the park but with Mata, Silva and Fabregas off the bench for Spain it was always going to be a difficult ask for the veteran.

Spain grabbed a third after Mata found space in behind off a Fabregas ball and the Manchester United man slotted home under Ryan.

The Socceroos looked fatigued in the final ten minutes after an energetic campaign that caught the eye of many.

David Silva should've made it four with a drive going wide of Ryan's goal as the Spanish ended the game on top. Jason Davidson's last ditch tackle saved a fourth goal showing great determination but there would be no comeback from the brave Aussies.

Date & Time				Venue				Weather				Temperature		Attendance	
4th. September 2014, 20.45				Stade Maurice Dufrasne, Liège, Belgium				Fine						16850	
Belgium..2 v. Australia..0															
half time, Belgium..1 v. Australia..0															
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution		
START LIST															
1	GK	Thibaut Courtois					1	GK	Mathew Ryan						
5	DF	Jan Vertonghen				89	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury						
4	DF	Vincent Kompany (c)					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson						
2	DF	Toby Alderweireld					14	DF	Christopher Herd				45+1		
3	DF	Nicolas Lombaerts				78	3	DF	Jason Davidson						
16	MF	Steven Defour				63	11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				60		
11	MF	Kevin Mirallas				62	22	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				60*		
7	MF	Kevin De Bruyne					7	MF	Mathew Leckie		33		87*		
14	MF	Dries Mertens	18			62*	5	MF	Mark Milligan				87		
6	MF	Axel Witsel	77				15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)						
9	FW	Divock Origi				80	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				72		
SUBSTITUTES															
18	MF	Thorgan Hazard					6	DF	Bailey Wright						
13	DF	Guillaume Gillet				89	9	FW	Tomi Juric				87*		
19	DF	Mousa Dembélé				80	2	DF	Joshua "Josh" Brillante				45+1		
12	GK	Simon Mignolet					17	DF	Matthew Smith				72		
23	DF	Laurent Ciman				78	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak						
8	DF	Radja Nainggolan				63	16	MF	Carl Valeri				87		
20	DF	Adnan Januzaj				62	13	FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran				60		
17	FW	Yannick Ferreira-Carrasco					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				60*		
21	GK	Jean-François Gillet													
22	DF	Nacer Chadli				62*									
15	DF	Jordan Lukaku Menama Mokelenge													
Team Coach		Marc Wilmots					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou						
Team Manager							Team Manager								
Referee		Michael Oliver (England)													
Assistant Referee 1		Darren England (England)													
Assistant Referee 2		Stuart Burt (England)													

match report from FFA

The Socceroos' build-up towards January's Asian Cup has got off to a shaky start, beaten 2-0 by a classy Belgium side in Liege.

A goal to the impressive Dries Mertens gave the Red Devils a well-deserved lead at the break before Axel Witsel put the icing on the cake 13 minutes from time at the Stade Maurice Dufrasne.

While the visitors were on the back foot for the majority of the first half, they were much better after the break.

After their encouraging performances at the World Cup, the Socceroos were unable to produce the same quality against the world's no.5 ranked nation.

Only a superb performance by goal-keeper Mat Ryan saved the Socceroos from a heavier defeat and they will want to show more composure and quality against Saudi Arabia in London on Tuesday (AEST).

Socceroo coach Ange Postecoglou handed debuts to Chris Herd and Trent Sainsbury in defence while youngster Brad Smith won a spot on the bench after his international clearance came through just hours before kick-off.

And the visitors made a positive start, showing the same energetic pressing and confident passing they displayed in Brazil. It wasn't long however before Belgium got into their groove and Ryan had to be alert to keep out Mertens on 12 minutes. After Divock Origi turned Sainsbury near halfway, he surged forward and squared a pass to the Napoli attacker, who unleashed a powerful low drive which Ryan did well to parry behind. It was a sign of things to come as the Socceroos were pinned back as they faced a red wave of attacks. A sloppy defensive giveaway handed the hosts their next chance as Kevin De Bruyne rattled the crossbar with a rasping effort soon after. But the Socceroos failed to clear the danger effectively and the hosts deservedly went in front. The ball found its way to Mertens at the far post, whose scuffed shot rather fortunately bounced into the ground and up over Ryan and in. Struggling to keep possession and deal with the pace and movement of the Red Devils, the Socceroos couldn't get Tim Cahill into the match. But Australia's greatest-ever goal-scorer almost equalized midway through the half after Mathew Leckie surged down the right and cut-back for Cahill but his strike was brilliantly saved by Thibaut Courtois. The frenetic pace of the game slowed by the half hour mark but the home side continued to ask questions with Mertens and Origi both testing Ryan with long-range efforts. A leg injury cruelly ended Herd's debut just before the break as Josh Brillante got his chance at right-back. Postecoglou would have demanded a response at half-time and again the Socceroos started brightly, with only a last-ditch tackle from Jan Vertonghen denying Leckie after Cahill had barged his way in behind the Belgian defence. A superb counter-attack almost saw the hosts double their lead just before the hour mark, De Bruyne's strike skimming inches wide of the post. Much of the sting went out of the match after that as both sides made a few substitutions, including the introduction of Massimo Luongo in midfield, who showed some impressive touches. With 20 minutes left Ryan continued his brilliant display, making himself big to deny Nacer Chadli in a dangerous one-on-one opportunity. But there was nothing the young shot-stopper could do 13 minutes from time as Witsel was given too much space on the edge of the box to smash a half-volley into the top right-hand corner of Ryan's net. Smith replaced Cahill to earn his first senior international cap but there would be no late fightback for the visitors, who have now lost their last five matches in 2014.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
8th. September 2014, 20.00			Craven Cottage, London, England				Good					3677	
Saudi Arabia..2 v. Australia..3													
half time, Saudi Arabia..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Waleed Abdullah Ali					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak		70		
3	DF	Osama Hawsawi					6	DF	Bailey Wright	77			
2	DF	Mansoor Adeeg Al-Harbi				55	22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				6
12	DF	Hassan Muath Fallatah	71(pk)				3	DF	Jason Davidson				60
25	DF	Majed Al-Marshadi					14	DF	Christopher Herd				59
17	MF	Taiseer Jaber Al-Jassam	84				21	MF	Massimo Luongo				78
24	MF	Yasser Al-Shahrani					2	MF	Joshua "Josh" Brillante				
18	MF	Waleed Rashid Bakshwin		52		85	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	6			59*
10	MF	Salman Al-Faraj				72	11	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar		72		
14	MF	Saud Ali Kariri (c)				66	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
15	FW	Nasser Al-Shamrani				55*	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	3			
SUBSTITUTES													
13	DF	Ahmed Hassan Assiri				85	17	DF	Bradley Smith				60
		Omar Ibrahim Omar Othman											
5	DF	Hawsawi					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				78
		Abdullah Mohammed Al-Zori											
4	MF	Al-Dossary				55	16	MF	Carl Valeri				59
27	DF	Motaz Hawsawi					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				6
11	MF	Shaye Ali Sharahili					5	MF	Mark Milligan				59*
8	MF	Yahya Sulaiman Ali Al-Shehri				72	13	FW	Benjamin "Ben" Halloran				
9	FW	Naif Ahmad Hazazi					9	FW	Tomi Juric				
21	GK	Fawaz Al-Qarni					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
6	MF	Mustafa Mahdi Al-Bassas											
20	FW	Mukhtar Fallatah				55*							
23	DF	Saeed Al-Mowalad											
		Ibrahim Mohammed Ghaleb Jahshan											
16	MF					66							
Team Coach		Juan Ramón López Caro					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Martin Atkinson (England)											
Assistant Referee 1		Darren Cann (England)											
Assistant Referee 2		Stephen Child (England)											

match report from FFA

Australia sprinted into a 2-0 lead through Tim Cahill and captain Mile Jedinak but had to endure a nervous finale, as debutant Bailey Wright scored for the Socceroos between strikes from Hassan Muath and Taisir Al Jassim for the Middle East team.

Coach Ange Postecoglou made four changes to the starting XI that took on Belgium in Liege on Friday morning (AEST), with Wright making his Socceroos debut in central defence, while Massimo Luongo earned his maiden start, playing in the hole. Midfielder Joshua Brillante and goalkeeper Mitch Langerak were also promoted, while Mark Bresciano, Trent Sainsbury, Mark Milligan and Mat Ryan sat on the bench.

After a shaky start where they conceded two free-kicks in as many minutes, Australia hit the front with their first attack, Cahill spreading the play on the counter-attack to Tommy Oar start the move.

Oar then found Mathew Leckie in the box but the FC Ingolstadt forward couldn't score and neither could Luongo before Cahill bundled the ball into the net from less than a metre.

It was 2-0 just four minutes later with Jedinak rising unmarked to nod Joshua Brillante's free-kick home, less than a minute after Alex Wilkinson was subbed off with a strained gluteal muscle, replaced by Sainsbury.

While the scoreboard looked promising, the performance was less so, with the Socceroos struggling to hold onto the ball early and failing to find new routes to goal.

Cahill's goal was his seventh in the Postecoglou era, while Jedinak was maintaining his record as the only other player to have scored in green and gold under the former Brisbane Roar and Melbourne Victory coach.

Otherwise it appeared that complacency had infiltrated Postecoglou's side with sloppy passes, particularly in Australia's defensive half, letting Saudi Arabia back into the match.

Sainsbury and Jedinak were arguably the main culprits, while the Socceroos struggled for cohesion amongst the front four of Oar, Leckie, Cahill and Luongo, although the latter again showed he has a bright future with some impressive moments.

Australia failed to test Saudi goalkeeper Waleed Abdullah after Jedinak's goal, although the Socceroos' skipper and Cahill both sent efforts wide of the mark, while Saudi Arabia tried a couple of long-range drives that did not trouble Langerak.

Postecoglou's men started the second half brightly but should have conceded in the 49th minute, only for the unmarked Yasir Al Shahrani to spray his shot wide from the edge of the six-yard box.

The Socceroos looked much more poised in possession up until the hour mark, although they did not create much, with their best move seeing Leckie chip to a surging Luongo, who could not keep his header down.

Saudi Arabia got back into the contest in the 70th minute with Langerak conceding a penalty on Mukhtar Fallatah, after the ball fell fortuitously to the substitute forward.

Langerak was lucky to stay on the pitch before Muath converted from the spot and suddenly the Saudis looked inspired.

The Socceroos restored their two-goal cushion just seven minutes later when Wright scored, after Saudi Arabia failed to clear an Australian set-piece, but the Gulf nation scored again soon after, with Al Shahrani teeing up Al Jassim, who took advantage of some lax marking from the Socceroos.

Australia held on, however, claiming just their second victory under Postecoglou's tutelage.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
10th. October 2014, 18.30			Mohamed Bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.				Hot and humid					open gates. estimated 1000	
United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..0													
half time, United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Ali Khaseif Humad Khaseif Housani (c)					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
6	DF	Al Amim Mohnad Salem Ghazy Al-Enazi				78	22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
23	DF	Mohamed Ahmed Ali Gharib Juma					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
14	DF	Abdelaziz Mohamed Sanqour Qambar Mubarak Al-Mazam					8	MF	Joshua "Josh" Brillante				
9	MF	Abdelaziz Husain Haikal Mubarak Al-Balooshi				49	3	DF	Jason Davidson				87
5	MF	Amer Abdul Rahman Abdullah Hussein Al-Hamadi					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				
4	MF	Habib Fardan Abduala				47	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				62
13	MF	Khamis Esmaeel Khamis Zayed					10	MF	Robbie Kruse				61
11	FW	Ahmed Khalil Sebait Mubarak Al-Junaibi				84	5	MF	Mark Milligan		26		75
7	FW	Ali Ahmed Mabkhout Mohsen Omaran Alhajeri					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
15	FW	Ismaeel Salem Ismaeel Saeed Al-Hammadi					19	FW	Bernie Ibini-Isei				77
SUBSTITUTES													
24	MF	Tariq Ahmed Al-Hammadi					16	MF	James Holland				75
25	MF	Haboush Saleh Habou Salbukh					9	MF	James Troisi				62
18	MF	Mohammed Fawzi Jawhar Faraj Abdullah Al-Jawhar				47	17	DF	Bradley Smith				61
16	MF	Rashed Eisa Al Falasi					13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				87
8	DF	Hamdan Ismail Mohammed Al-Kamali					24	GK	Adam Federici				
26	FW	Mohamed Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Raqi Al-Amoodi				49	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				77
19	DF	Mohamed Ismail Ahmed Ismail Saeed Salem Saleh Salem				78	25	DF	Nikolai Topor-Stanley				
20	FW	Al-Kathiri				84	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
12	GK	Khalid Eisa Mohamed Bilal Saeed											
17	MF	Mahmoud Khamis Al-Hammadi											
2	FW	Ahmed Khamis Al-Khaleifi											
22	MF	Ahmed Yousuf Mohammed											
Team Coach		Mahdi Ali Hassan Redha					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Vladislav Tseytlin (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Andrey Tsapenko (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Husniddin Shodmonov (Uzbekistan)											

Khamis Esmaeel is also shown as Khamis Ismaeel.

match report from FFA

Australia have been held to a dour 0-0 draw by the United Arab Emirates at a hot and humid Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium on Saturday morning (AEDT).

In a match of few clear cut chances, the Socceroos struggled to mount any serious pressure in the attacking third but coach Ange Postecoglou will surely be pleased by an improved defensive showing.

The Alex Wilkinson-Trent Sainsbury partnership in the heart of the defence performed well, ensuring the Socceroos managed their first clean sheet in nine matches.

Another bright spot was Robbie Kruse's long-awaited comeback from a knee injury, getting through 60 minutes and showing some encouraging signs he will be a key player come January's AFC Asian Cup.

Postecoglou threw up a surprise before kick-off, leaving Tim Cahill on the bench and handing a debut to Sydney FC attacker Bernie Ibini up front.

But it was Mathew Leckie who had the first chance inside two minutes, out-pacing Mohamed Ahmad to Mile Jedinak's lofted ball but his effort was wide of the mark.

The searing heat, which nudged 35 degrees in Abu Dhabi, contributed to a slow tempo early on with the hosts content to play at almost a walking pace at times.

But the Socceroos managed to get into several promising areas in around the UAE box but were often let down by the final pass.

After being largely untroubled for the first 25 minutes, the visitors had Wilkinson to thank for denying UAE the opener.

Ali Ahmed Mabkhout sprung the offside trap and raced clear on goal, dinking the ball over 'keeper Mat Ryan but Wilkinson was on the line to head over the crossbar to safety.

Australia though finished the half in the ascendancy and almost took a lead to the break after a fantastic set piece from a free-kick.

Mark Milligan ran onto Jedinak's chipped free-kick – after starting next to his skipper – but his glancing header went just wide of the post.

Leckie managed to test Ali Khaseif early in the second half after being freed up on the edge of the box by some nice build-up play from Milligan and Massimo Luongo, but his tame shot was easily saved.

A tiring Socceroos seemed to find a second win with the introduction of substitutes James Troisi and Brad Smith on the hour mark.

Soon after Milligan spotted Leckie's incisive run in behind the UAE defence, picking the FC Ingolstadt man out with an inch-perfect pass but his first-time shot was well saved by Khaseif.

Confusion in the UAE box almost saw Ibini cap his debut with a goal but he couldn't get significant connection on his snap-shot from just eight yards out.

Australia's greatest-ever goal-scorer Cahill came on for the last 15 minutes and had a trademark headed chance which sailed before Sainsbury squandered a gilt-edged chance at the death.

A corner was headed towards goal by Cahill, finding Sainsbury just a couple of yards out but his flick went up over the bar to ensure the match would finish goal-less.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature			Attendance	
14th. October 2014, 17.00			Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha, Qatar				Hot and humid						approx 2000	
Qatar..1 v. Australia..0														
half time, Qatar..0 v. Australia..0														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
1	GK	Qasem Abdulhamed Burhan					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				45	
2	DF	Mohammed Musa Abbas Ali				68	6	DF	Nikolai Topor-Stanley					
13	DF	Ibrahim Majid Abdulmajid					13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					
3	DF	Abdelkarim Hassan Fadlalla					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					
4	DF	Almahdi Ali Mukhtar					14	DF	Christopher Herd				64	
5	MF	Abdulaziz Hatem Mohammed Abdullah					9	MF	James Troisi					
11	MF	Hassan Khalid Al-Haidos					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				45*	
7	MF	Wesam Rizik Abdulmajid				45	11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				76	
23	FW	Andrés Sebastián Soria Quintana				75	10	MF	Robbie Kruse				64*	
10	FW	Khalfan Ibrahim Khalfan Khalfan (c)	61				23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano					
25	FW	Ahmad Abdulmaqsoud				45*	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				76*	
SUBSTITUTES														
6	DF	Bilal Mohammed Rajab					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					
9	FW	Meshaal Abdulla				75	19	FW	Bernie Ibini-Isei				64*	
8	MF	Khalid Abdulraouf Al-Zereiqi				45	17	DF	Bradley Smith				76*	
20	FW	Abdulgadir Ilyas Bakur					2	DF	Ivan Franjic		82		64	
19	FW	Abdulrahman Mohammad Ali Hussain					18	GK	Adam Federici				45	
25	MF	Ahmed Abdelmaqsoud					5	MF	Mark Milligan					
17	MF	Ismaeel Mohammed				68	1	GK	Mathew Ryan					
22	GK	Saad Al-Sheeb					21	MF	Massimo Luongo					
26	DF	Mosaab Mahmoud Mohamed Elhassan					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				76	
12	FW	Magid Mohammed Hassan				45*	3	DF	Jason Davidson					
30	GK	Sateh Abdulnasser					8	MF	Joshua Brillante		49		45*	
18	FW	Ismail Mahmoud Mardanli												
Team Coach		Fahad Thani					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					
Team Manager							Team Manager							
Referee		Ahmad Ibrahim (Jordan)												
Assistant Referee 1														
Assistant Referee 2														

match report from FFA

A Khalfan Ibrahim goal condemned Australia to a 1-0 defeat against Qatar on Wednesday, leaving Ange Postecoglou with plenty of questions to answer ahead of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup.

The Socceroos, playing their 500th international match, were expected to make amends for their dour 0-0 draw with the United Arab Emirates on Saturday morning.

And although it was a more entertaining contest at Doha's Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Stadium, the men in green and gold again proved unable to breach the opposition's defence, conceding a soft goal to return from two Gulf friendlies empty-handed.

Postecoglou made eight changes to the starting XI that were held by the UAE, centre-back Alex Wilkinson, captain Mile Jedinak and forward Robbie Kruse the only survivors.

Mitch Langerak took the gloves from Mat Ryan, as Chris Herd, Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Aziz Behich joined Wilkinson at the back.

Mark Bresciano was deployed slightly ahead of holder Jedinak, with Tommy Oar on the left, James Troisi at No.10 and Tim Cahill up front.

It took just two minutes for some familiar faces to resume their well-established partnership. Bresciano picked out Cahill unmarked at the back post, only for the New York Red Bulls man to power an uncharacteristically weak effort harmlessly into the turf.

Despite dominating possession, the Socceroos had to wait until the 24th minute for another presentable chance to arrive. This time Cahill, winning an aerial challenge inside the area, nodded down to Troisi, who saw the angle for a right-foot curler closed off, before his eventual left-foot strike was well saved by goalkeeper Qasem Burhan.

Reading's Adam Federici replaced Langerak at half-time, while Josh Brillante came on for Jedinak. Australia stepped things up early in the second half, although a succession of corners and half-chances failed to really trouble the hosts.

And they were punished for not making more of those opportunities. Khalfan sprang the offside trap to slot a low finish beyond Federici in the 61st minute, Topor-Stanley having narrowly failed to cut out Sebastian Soria's assist.

Cahill had a decent chance to level in the 68th minute, turning his man just inside the area before firing a low strike straight at Qasem.

Postecoglou progressively introduced Bernie Ibini, Mathew Leckie, Brad Smith and Ivan Franjic for Kruse, Cahill, Oar and Herd respectively from the hour-mark onwards. But the men in green and gold struggled to recapture the momentum they had built early in the second period, the hosts seeing out the time remaining in relative comfort to claim the scalp of a regional powerhouse.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
18th. November 2014, 19.24			Yanmar Stadium (Nagai Stadium), Osaka, Japan				Clear			11.4C		46312	
Japan..2 v. Australia..1													
half time, Japan..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Eiji Kawashima					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
6	DF	Masato Morishige					2	DF	Ivan Franjic		69		
21	DF	Kosuke Ota					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
22	DF	Maya Yoshida					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
3	DF	Gotoku Sakai					13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
17	MF	Makoto Hasebe					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		45		
7	MF	Yasuhito Endo				46	17	MF	Matthew McKay				74
10	MF	Shinji Kagawa					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				64*
9	FW	Shinji Okazaki	68			77	10	MF	Robbie Kruse				88
4	FW	Keisuke Honda					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
14	MF	Yoshinori Muto				57	14	MF	James Troisi				64
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Atsuto Uchida					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
8	MF	Takashi Inui				57	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	90+2			74
11	FW	Yohei Toyoda				77	6	DF	Nikolai Topor-Stanley				
12	GK	Shusaku Nishikawa					8	MF	Joshua "Josh" Brillante				
13	MF	Taishi Taguchi					9	FW	Mitchell Nichols				64*
15	DF	Yasuyuki Konno	61			46	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
16	DF	Tsukasa Shiotani					16	MF	James Holland				
18	DF	Gen Shoji					19	MF	Oliver Bozanic				
20	MF	Gaku Shibasaki					23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				64
23	GK	Masaaki Higashiguchi					24	MF	Aaron Mooy				88
5	DF	Ken Matsubara					25	DF	Christopher Herd				
19	MF	Ryota Morioka											
Team Coach		Javier Aguirre Onaindia					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Pawel Gil (Poland)											
Assistant Referee 1		Rafal Rostkowski (Poland)											
Assistant Referee 2		Marcin Borkowski (Poland)											

match report from FFA

A second-half masterclass has enabled Japan to defeat the Socceroos 2-1 on Tuesday night, the Samurai Blue landing a timely psychological blow ahead of next year's Asian Cup in Australia.

Goals to Yasuyuki Konno and Shinji Okazaki in a seven-minute period in the second half had the hosts in control before Tim Cahill haunted Japan again with a trademark header in stoppage time.

But it was too little too late for Australia whose wait for a first win in Japan will go on and leaves coach Ange Postecoglou with a few things to ponder ahead of January's tournament on home soil.

It was a mixed night for the Socceroos, who looked superb in the first half as they dominated the hosts in almost every department.

But they couldn't maintain the same intensity and quality after the break, with Japan's big-name stars coming to the fore to claim bragging rights before they head Down Under in less than two months.

Postecoglou made six changes to the starting XI that were beaten by Qatar last month, including starting Tim Cahill on the bench and playing Mathew Leckie, James Troisi and Robbie Kruse in a speedy front-three.

The visitors made a fast-start with Troisi and Leckie both flashing chances wide inside the first 10 minutes.

Enjoying the cooler conditions than what they encountered in the Middle East last month, the Socceroos took the game to Japan with some slick passing and measured build-up play.

Only a superb full-stretch save by Eiji Kawashima on 17 minutes kept the home side on level terms, keeping out Leckie's powerful header from Massimo Luongo's looping cross.

It's just what Postecoglou would have wanted from his side, who were dominating possession while Alex Wilkinson and Trent Sainsbury were assured at the back.

Japan's best – and only real – chance of the half came five minutes from the break, Shinji Kagawa getting to the byline and cutting the ball back, with skipper Mile Jedinak getting in a timely interception to stop what would have been a certain goal to Shinji Okazaki.

Untroubled for much of the opening 45 minutes, Socceroos goal-keeper Mat Ryan had to pull off two smart saves to deny both Kagawa and Okazaki within a couple of minutes at the start of the second half.

Substitute Takashi Inui, who had just come onto the pitch two minutes earlier, then let Australia off the hook on the hour mark when he headed over from close range.

It was a let-off for Postecoglou's troops but one they didn't head as Konno was left unmarked at the back post from a corner,

It's the second goal Konno has scored against the Socceroos to go with his effort in a World Cup qualifier in Brisbane in 2012.

Okazaki made it 2-0 midway through the half, turning home Masato Morishige's centre with a classy flick through his legs from just a few yards out.

Cahill was introduced with 17 minutes left and got his fifth goal against Japan, rising high to head home Aziz Behich's centre at the death to halve the deficit but the home side held on for a well-deserved victory.

The defeat leaves the Socceroos with just one win for 2014 and some work to do ahead of the Asian Cup.

Asian Cup Finals - 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
9th. January 2015, 20.00			Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria (AAMI Park)				Overcast and rain			13C		25231	
Australia..4 v. Kuwait..1													
half time, Australia..2 v. Kuwait..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					23	GK	Hameed Youssef Al-Qallaf				
2	DF	Ivan Franjic					5	DF	Fahad Al-Hajri				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					4	DF	Hussain Fadhel Abdullah Ali Al-Maatouq	7	18		56
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					13	DF	Mesaed Neda Al-Enazi (c)				
13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					6	DF	Khaled Ali Nasser Al-Qahtani				73
21	MF	Massimo Luongo	44			83	21	MF	Ali Ahmed Maqseed				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	62(pk)				8	MF	Saleh Al-Sheikh Al-Hendi				
14	MF	James Troisi	90+1				11	MF	Fahad Ebrahim Al-Ansari				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie					12	MF	Sultan Al-Enzi				
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				71	16	MF	Faisal Zaid Al-Harbi		46		
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	32			64	10	FW	Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Masha'an Al-Enezi				63
SUBSTITUTES													
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					17	FW	Bader Ahmed Al-Mutwa				73
9	FW	Tomi Juric				64	14	MF	Talal Ahmed Al-Amer				
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					15	FW	Faisal Al-Enzi				
8	DF	Christopher Herd					7	DF	Talal Al-Fadhel				
17	MF	Matthew McKay					19	FW	Abdulrahman Rahman Al-Shammari				
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					18	MF	Khaled Mohamed Ebrahim Hajiah				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					9	MF	Abdullah Salem Al-Buraiki				
5	MF	Mark Milligan					20	FW	Yousef Naser Al-Sulaiman				63
3	DF	Jason Davidson					22	GK	Sulaiman Abdulghafoor				
19	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis					1	GK	Khaled Mohammad Aidh Al-Rashidi				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				83	2	DF	Amer Maatouq Al-Fadhel				56
16	MF	Nathan Burns				71							
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Nabil Maaloul				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Faraj Alenzi				
Referee		Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Bakhadyr Kochkarov (Kyrgyzstan)											

Bader Ahmed Al-Mutwa is also shown as Bader Ahmed Al-Motawaa.

match report from FFA

Australia defeated Kuwait 4-1 in the opening game of the 2015 Asian Cup, coming from behind to start their campaign in ideal fashion.

Kuwait led early against the run of play but Ange Postecoglou's Australians fought back, led by young midfielder Massimo Luongo, who set up the home side's first goal and scored the second to give them a 2-1 lead at half-time. A host nation had not won the opening game of an Asian Cup since 1968 when Iran, who went on to lift the trophy, trumped Hong Kong 2-0. But Australia went for the kill from the opening minute of the second half and deservedly extended their advantage just after the hour mark when captain Mile Jedinak struck from the spot. The victory ended a three-game winless run for Australia and is just the third in the Postecoglou era.

After a tidy enough start from Postecoglou's side without properly threatening Kuwait's goal, the hosts were stunned in the eighth minute.

An unmarked Hussain Fadel sent a diving header past Mat Ryan from Kuwait's first corner thanks to sloppy defending by the home team.

The Australians - both those on the pitch and in the stands - looked shell-shocked, but, as the half wore on, their high pressing forced Kuwait further and further backwards, although any genuine creativity was lacking. Luongo finally provided the moment of quality the home team needed in the 32nd minute, turning away from two markers after Ivan Franjic's throw-in and then cutting back to Tim Cahill, who made no mistake from near the penalty spot.

The goal seemed to inspire Luongo and his attacking midfield partner James Troisi, as they began to threaten Kuwait's two deep banks of four.

Australia edged 2-1 ahead two minutes before the break, Franjic showing some skill to leave his opponent on the deck before swinging a cross to the near post where Luongo rose to nod the ball past Hameed Youssef. Any fears that half-time would slow Australia down were dispelled almost immediately as they dominated the opening 15 minutes to eventually score a third.

Cahill forced a top save out of Hameed in the 59th minute, before Leckie hit the bar, while the goal was the result of another top attack down the right involving Luongo and Franjic before Kruse was felled in the box in the 61st minute. Jedinak made no mistake with the penalty and although Kuwait had some chances to score a second goal - none better than Fahad Al Ansari's drive that Ryan tipped onto the bar - Australia deservedly triumphed, eventually scoring a fourth when Troisi pounced in stoppage time.

Asian Cup Finals - 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
13th. January 2015, 20.00			ANZ Stadium, Homebush Bay, Sydney, South Wales (Sydney Olympic Stadium)				New Very good			24C		50276	
Australia..4 v. Oman..0													
half time, Australia..3 v. Oman..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Ali Abdullah Harib Al-Habsi				
2	DF	Ivan Franjic					16	DF	Ali Sulaiman Rashid Al-Busaidi				46
3	DF	Jason Davidson		87			2	DF	Mohammed Saleh Ali Al-Musalami				
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic		73			6	DF	Raed Ibrahim Saleh Haikal Al-Mukhaini				88
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					13	DF	Abdul Salam Amur Juma Al-Mukhaini		45+1		
5	MF	Mark Milligan	45+2				3	MF	Jaber Mohammed Sagheer Al-Owaisi				
7	MF	Mathew Leckie				77	12	MF	Ahmed Mubarak Obaid Al-Mahajiri		36		
17	MF	Matthew McKay	27				8	MF	Eid Mohammed Al-Farsi				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo				51	21	MF	Mohsin Johar Al-Khaldi				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				51*	20	FW	Amad Ali Suleiman Al-Hosni				46*
10	MF	Robbie Kruse	30				9	FW	Abdulaziz Humaid Mubarak Al-Maqbali				
SUBSTITUTES													
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					19	DF	Ahmed Saleem Thuwaini Al-Mukhaini				
9	FW	Tomi Juric	69			51*	14	FW	Yaqoob Abdul-Karim Salim Al-Qasbi				
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				77	5	DF	Nasser Ali Al-Shimli				
19	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis					11	DF	Amer Said Al-Shatri				46
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					7	FW	Mohammed Ali Humaid Al-Siyabi				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				51	18	GK	Mazin Masaoud Darwish Al-Kasbi				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					22	GK	Sulaiman Abdullah Khamis Al-Buraiki				
14	MF	James Troisi					17	DF	Hassan Yousuf Mudhafar Al-Gheilani				
13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					10	FW	Qasim Said Sanjoor Hardan				
16	MF	Nathan Burns					15	DF	Ali Salim Obaid Bait Al-Nahar				88
							23	FW	Said Salim Al-Razaqi				
							4	MF	Ali Hilal Saud Al-Jabri				46*
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Paul Le Guen				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Mohammed Saleh Al-Alawi				
Referee		Ryuji Sato (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Toru Sagara (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Toshiyuki Nagi (Japan)											

match report from FFA

Australia has continued their free-scoring and barnstorming start to the Asian Cup, crushing a disappointing Oman 4-0 at Stadium Australia on Tuesday night.

In another clear statement the Socceroos are getting more confident in Ange Postecoglou's style, they destroyed Oman in a devastating first half to book their quarter-final berth with a game to spare.

Matt McKay, Robbie Kruse and Mark Milligan all found the net in the first half before a goal for substitute Tomi Juric midway through the second completed the rout.

Remarkably, the eight goals the Socceroos have netted in the first two matches have been scored by eight different players.

The result means Australia only need a draw from the final group game with Korea Republic on Saturday night to top the group.

Postecoglou made three changes from the tournament opener, bringing in Milligan, McKay and Jason Davidson for Mile Jedinak, James Troisi and Aziz Behich.

And like Friday night it was a slow start by Australia, with only a superb full-length save by Mat Ryan keeping out Raed Saleh's rasping drive early on. It took almost 20 minutes for the hosts to find their feet and when they did they eventually put Oman to the sword.

First McKay turned the ball in from close range after Trent Sainsbury rose highest to head Massimo Luongo's corner towards goal.

On the half hour it was two as Kruse started and finished a brilliant move which had the crowd of 50,276 on their feet.

Luongo was again involved, sending Kruse through with a classy lofted pass over the top with the outside of his right foot which the Bayer Leverkusen man finished low and hard under Ali Al Habsi.

By now the Socceroos were flying and only the width of the post denied Kruse a second before Milligan made it three in bizarre circumstances first half stoppage time.

A flowing move ended with Milligan having an easy tap in at the far post but Japanese referee Ryuji Sato surprised everyone by already blowing for a penalty after Tim Cahill was fouled in the build-up.

It mattered little as Milligan buried his spot kick to have the result put to bed by half-time.

Even with Cahill and Luongo substituted early in the second half the hosts kept up the intensity throughout and added a fourth goal their industry merited.

Juric got himself on the score-sheet 20 minutes from time when he slid in at the far post after wonderful work by Mathew Leckie down the left.

Only the sharp reflexes of Al Habsi denied both Milligan and Juric from adding further gloss to the score late-on but it mattered little on a memorable night for the Socceroos.

Asian Cup Finals - 1st. Round													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
17th. January 2015, 19.00			Brisbane Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland (Suncorp Stadium)				Hot and dry			31C		48513	
Australia..0 v. Korea Republic..1													
half time, Australia..0 v. Korea Republic..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					23	GK	Kim Jin-Hyeon				
2	DF	Ivan Franjic					2	DF	Kim Chang-Soo		63		
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					5	DF	Kwak Tae-Hwi				
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic		79			19	DF	Kim Young-Gwon				
13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					3	DF	Kim Jin-Su				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					6	MF	Park Joo-Ho				41
5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)					16	MF	Ki Sung-Yueng (c)				
17	MF	Matthew McKay				72	12	MF	Han Kyo-Won		57		76
16	MF	Nathan Burns		29		71	13	MF	Koo Ja-Cheol				50
9	FW	Tomi Juric					11	FW	Lee Keun-Ho				
14	MF	James Troisi				62	18	FW	Lee Jeong-Hyeop	32			
SUBSTITUTES													
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					15	MF	Lee Myung-Joo				
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					14	MF	Han Kook-Young				41
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill		90+1		72	22	DF	Cha Du-Ri				
19	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis					10	MF	Nam Tae-Hee				
10	MF	Robbie Kruse				71	4	DF	Kim Ju-Young				
7	MF	Mathew Leckie				62	8	MF	Kim Min-Woo				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano					20	DF	Jang Hyun-Soo				76
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					7	MF	Son Heung-Min				50
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					1	GK	Jung Sung-Ryong				
3	DF	Jason Davidson					21	GK	Kim Seung-Gyu				
							9	FW	Cho Young-Cheol				
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Ulrich Stielike				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Park Il-Ki				
Referee		Nawaf Abdullah Ghayyath Shukralla (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yaser Khalil Ebrahim Abdulla Tulefat (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Ebrahim Mubarak Sabt Moosa Saleh (Bahrain)											

match report from FFA

Korea Republic have defeated Australia 1-0 in a hard-fought but high-quality encounter at Brisbane Stadium to earn top spot in Group A and what should be an easier passage through the knockout stages.

Lee Jeonghyeop scored for Korea in the 33rd minute and, despite the Socceroos controlling the majority of possession, they were unable to break down a well-drilled Taeguk Warriors defence.

Some stunning saves late in the game from South Korean goalkeeper Kim Jin Hyeon enabled his side to hang on to all three points and group honours.

Australia will now stay in Brisbane to face China in the quarter-finals with a likely encounter with tournament favourites Japan waiting in the last four if they are to make it all the way to the Asian Cup final.

Questions will be raised as to whether changes should have been made to the Socceroos' starting side ahead of the Group A decider.

Coach Ange Postecoglou made four alterations to his starting XI from the previous match, opting to rest the attacking trident of Tim Cahill, Robbie Kruse and Mathew Leckie in favour of Tomi Juric, Nathan Burns and

James Troisi, while also reverting to Aziz Behich at left-back in place of Jason Davidson.

All three attacking players were introduced in the second half but were unable to find the breakthrough a desperate Australian side were seeking.

South Korea's German coach Uli Stielike also made wholesale changes for the second game in a row, using six different players in his starting lineup, while leaving star midfielder Son Heung Min on the bench once more.

Some robust challenges throughout the game from the Australians earned the ire of Stielike, who was forced to withdraw Park Joo Ho in the first half and Koo Ja Cheol early in the second due to head knocks.

After a cagey opening quarter of an hour, South Korea had the first clear cut chance of the match when Kwak Taewhi out-jumped Massimo Luongo at a corner only to send his shot wide of the target.

The Australians hit back with two chances in quick succession, but neither Tomi Juric nor Nathan Burns could beat Kim Changsoo after creating space for themselves.

Ki Sung Yueng unlocked the game with a delightful pass from the left which released Lee Keun Ho, who crossed low for Lee Jeonghyeop to angle past Mat Ryan for the opening goal.

The Socceroos nearly found an equaliser moments later after a superb run from Massimo Luongo, but Troisi could not finish the move and found the side netting instead.

The home side continued to create chances late in the first half but the Koreans looked threatening when they broke out of defence in rapid counter attacks, but the teams remained separated by the single goal at the break.

The feistiness of the encounter went up a notch after half time, with tensions threatening to boil over on several occasions.

It was the South Koreans who were in their comfort zone with the scoreboard in their favour, sitting back in a tight defensive formation and allowing skilful midfielders Ki Sung Yueng and Son Heung Min, who came on in the second term, to probe forward.

Burns almost found a way through when he went on a winding run through the defence, only to be thwarted by an excellent Kim Jin Hyeon save.

Kruse slalomed his way thought the tiring South Korean defence in the 88thminute, but he too was denied by the brilliance of the keeper.

Despite the aerial threat posed by substitute Cahill, South Korea hung on to claim all three points.

Asian Cup Finals - Quarter-final													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
22nd. January 2015, 20.30			Brisbane Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland (Suncorp Stadium)				Nice with a short shower			24C		46067	
Australia..2 v. People's Republic of China..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. People's Republic of China..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					23	GK	Wang Dalei				
2	DF	Ivan Franjic					17	DF	Zhang Chengdong				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					5	DF	Zhang Linpeng		51		
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					3	DF	Mei Fang				46
3	DF	Jason Davidson					2	DF	Ren Hang				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano				60	15	MF	Wu Xi				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		19			8	MF	Cai Huikang				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					10	MF	Zheng Zhi				
7	MF	Mathew Leckie				69	16	MF	Sun Ke				71
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	49, 66			80	7	FW	Wu Lei				
10	MF	Robbie Kruse					14	FW	Ji Xiang				
SUBSTITUTES													
5	MF	Mark Milligan				80	1	GK	Zeng Cheng				
9	FW	Tomi Juric					4	MF	Jiang Zhipeng				46
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					6	MF	Li Ang				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					9	FW	Yang Xu				83
13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					11	MF	Hao Junmin				
14	MF	James Troisi				60	12	GK	Yan Junling				
16	FW	Nathan Burns				69	13	MF	Liu Jianye				
17	MF	Matthew McKay					18	FW	Gao Lin				
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					19	FW	Liu Bin Bin				
19	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis					20	MF	Yu Hanchao				
							21	MF	Yu Hai				71
							22	MF	Liao Lisheng				
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Alain Perrin				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Liu Dianqiu				
Referee		Kim Jong Hyeok (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Jeong Hae Sang (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Yoon Kwang Yeol (Korea Republic)											

match report from FFA

The Socceroos blew China away in a devastating 16 minute spell with superstar striker Tim Cahill scoring twice - including a candidate for goal of the tournament - to win their Asian Cup quarter-final 2-0 at Brisbane Stadium on Thursday night.

The victory sets up an Asian Cup semi-final next Tuesday in Newcastle against either Japan or the UAE.

After his world-class goal at the World Cup in Brazil against Holland, Cahill did it again with a moment of genius to prize open the stubborn Chinese just after the break.

An unbelievable bicycle kick with his back to goal will go down as one of Australia's great goals. And vital too after the Chinese had shown they are a rising force under coach Alain Perrin.

A trademark powerful header by Cahill sealed the victory on 65 minutes and doused a stubborn Chinese side who showed plenty of fight in front of their many fans.

Entering the pitch to light rain and thunderous noise from both sets of fans, the scene was set for an Asian Cup classic.

The Socceroos were back in their green and gold kit while China sported a stylish all white with red trim.

The Aussies had a fresh look about them too with Mark Bresciano in for his first start of the Asian Cup and skipper Mile Jedinak back from injury.

Alex Wilkinson was in for the suspended Matt Spiranovic, Robbie Kruse came back into the starting XI and Jason Davidson won the left-back battle.

It was a nervy opening for Australia as China rose to the occasion in front of their loud fans, numbering roughly half the 52,000 seat Brisbane Stadium.

An early scare saw Mat Ryan forced to rush a clearance under pressure in his six-yard box. Then Wilkinson's perfectly timed tackle averted danger after the pacy Wu Lei burst through.

Adding to the worried looks on the Socceroo bench, Wu Lei profited from a loose ball by Jedinak but his run and shot was deflected wide for a corner. And minutes later Zhang Chengdong's cut back almost resulted in an opener for China as the team in white sensed an upset.

Minutes later the Socceroo skipper was yellow carded but this seemed to change the game as Australia came back into the contest in the second half of the first stanza.

Bresciano was the creator. His curling set-piece wide left found the head of Jedinak but his downward header just missed its mark.

Again Bresciano with a pin-point set piece from his right boot found Trent Sainsbury who powered his header just over.

And Cahill met a perfect Leckie cross but danger was averted for China as his header was unable to find its mark.

But Australia's best chance came on 28 minutes as the home fans found their voice.

Matt Leckie jinked past the China defence then unleashed a powerful left foot drive inside the box that was parried away by Wang Dalei

It was 0-0 at half-time after a tense, tight and at times scrappy first 45 minutes..

No changes to the Socceroos at half time as they immediately went on the attack.

Then, a moment of pure magic.

After a corner was cleared by China, Ivan Franjic's looping header back into the box found Cahill to the left of goal. He met the ball with his back to goal and deft right-footed bicycle kick arrowed across goal and into the opposite side of the net.

Brisbane Stadium erupted - a corner flag was uprooted by Cahill and he was mobbed by his teammates.

Asian Cup Finals - Semi-final													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
27th. January 2015, 20.00			Newcastle International Sports Centre, Newcastle, New South Wales (Hunter Stadium)				Light rain			21C		21079	
Australia..2 v. United Arab Emirates..0													
half time, Australia..2 v. United Arab Emirates..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Majed Naser Humaid Bakheit Maqdemi (c)				
2	DF	Ivan Franjic					14	DF	Abdelaziz Mohamed Sanqour Qambar Mubarak Al-Mazam				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury	3				23	DF	Mohamed Ahmed Ali Gharib Juma Al Amim Mohnad Salem Ghazy				
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					6	DF	Al-Enazi Walid Abbas Murad Yousif				
3	DF	Jason Davidson	12				3	DF	Al-Balooshi				77
5	MF	Mark Milligan				58	13	MF	Khamis Esmaeel Khamis Zayed Amer Abdul Rahman Abdullah				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		63			5	MF	Hussein Al-Hamadi Omar Abdulrahman Ahmed				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					10	MF	Al-Raqi Al-Amoudi Mohamed Abdulrahman Ahmed				
10	MF	Robbie Kruse				80	16	MF	Al-Raqi Al-Almoudi				47
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				68	7	FW	Ali Ahmed Mabkhout Mohsen Omaran Alhajeri				
7	MF	Mathew Leckie		41			11	FW	Ahmed Khalil Sebait Mubarak Al-Junaibi				66
SUBSTITUTES													
14	MF	James Trosi				80	15	MF	Ismaeel Salem Ismaeel Saeed Al-Hammadi				47
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					17	MF	Majed Hassan				
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					12	GK	Khalid Eisa Mohamed Bilal Saeed Saeed Salem Saleh Salem				
16	FW	Nathan Burns					20	FW	Al-Kathiri Saleh Saleh Mussallam Salem				66
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					18	FW	Al-Rejaibi Abdelaziz Husain Haikal Mubarak				
19	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis					9	DF	Al-Balooshi Hamdan Ismail Mohammed				
17	MF	Matthew McKay				58	8	DF	Al-Kamali Hassan Ibrahim Jumaa Hasan				
9	FW	Tomi Juric				68	2	MF	Saqer Haboush Saleh Habou Salbukh				77
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					21	MF	Mohamed Yousif Khalaf Yousif Husain Al-Hosani				
13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					22	GK	Habib Al-Fardan				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano					4	MF	Mohamed Ismail Ahmed Ismail				
							19	DF					
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Mahdi Ali Hassan Redha				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Metref Ali Metref Al-Shamisi				
Referee		Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Bakhadyr Kochkarov (Kyrgyzstan)											

match report from FFA

A devastating early onslaught has ensured the Socceroos are through to the AFC Asian Cup final after beating UAE 2-0 in their semi-final at a rain-soaked Newcastle Stadium on Tuesday night. Defenders Trent Sainsbury and Jason Davidson both bagged their first international goals as the hosts scored twice in the first 14 minutes to seal their spot in Saturday night's final in Sydney.

A blockbuster decider sees Ange Postecoglou's side take on Korea Republic, the side that beat them 1-0 in the group stage just 10 days ago.

It's Australia's second straight Asian Cup final and with a huge Sydney crowd behind them they will expect to go one better and land their first major piece of silverware.

Confidence will certainly be high after an eye-catching professional performance to dispose of UAE in front of more than 21,000 fans in the Hunter.

The Socceroos may have been guilty for some slow starts earlier in the tournament but they surged out of the blocks and were in front inside three minutes.

Luongo swung in a perfect corner from the right which appeared to be heading straight to the heavily-marked Tim Cahill.

But the ball was just over Cahill's head and the UAE defence left Sainsbury all alone, the defender planting it into the bottom corner.

Newcastle Stadium had lifted off and any nerves the home side might have had were immediately washed away.

The home side were given a swift reminder though of the danger UAE possessed just a few minutes later.

Dangerman Omar Abdulrahman fed Abdelaziz Sanqour down the right and his cut-back was struck sweetly by Ahmed Khalil but the ball hit the base of the post and not the back of the net.

And the Socceroos made the most of the let-off on 14 minutes.

Ivan Franjic's cross caused havoc in the penalty area with both Cahill and Mathew Lecky denied by desperate challenges.

It was Luongo who reacted the quickest to slide the loose ball to Davidson who made no mistake from just 10 yards out, driving it past Majed Naser at his near post.

At 2-0 up so early Postecoglou's side had one foot in the final and they looked to press home their advantage.

The brilliant Robbie Kruse was at the centre of most of Australia's attacks, a scheming run and cross just over Cahill's head midway through the half before trying his luck with a shot of his own which Naser easily claimed.

UAE enjoyed their best spell just before half-time with Khalil causing most of the problems for Australia's back four but his last pass or shot often let them down.

It meant the home side went to the sheds with their two-goal advantage firmly intact.

Khalil fired the first warning shot six minutes into the second half, rifling an effort from distance which whistled just past Ryan's post.

Noticing he needed some more energy in the middle of the park, Postecoglou brought on Matt McKay for Mark Milligan and it helped the Green and Gold get back in the ascendancy.

With just under 20 minutes left Luongo almost got his name on the score-sheet, his curling left-footed effort was headed for the far corner if not for a diving fingertip save from Naser.

To the UAE's credit they didn't throw in the towel and kept probing for a route back into the contest.

But when Sainsbury capped another dominant showing with a superb sliding tackle to deny Ali Mabkhout a shot on goal in the final minute, the Socceroos job was done and now the final awaits.

Australia 2 (Sainsbury 3', Davidson 14'), UAE 0

Crowd: 21,079

Asian Cup Finals - Final													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
31st. January 2015, 20.00			Stadium Australia, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales (Sydney Olympic Stadium)				Very good			22C		76385	
Australia..2 v. Korea Republic..1 after extra time													
half time, Australia..1 v. Korea Republic..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					23	GK	Kim Jin-Hyeon				
2	DF	Ivan Franjic		6		74	22	DF	Cha Du-Ri				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					5	DF	Kwak Tae-Hwi				
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic		59			19	DF	Kim Young-Gwon				
3	DF	Jason Davidson		41			3	DF	Kim Jin-Su				
5	MF	Mark Milligan					20	DF	Jang Hyun-Soo				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		66			16	MF	Ki Sung-Yueng (c)				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo	45				7	MF	Son Heung-Min	90+1			
10	MF	Robbie Kruse		68		71	10	MF	Nam Tae-Hee				63
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				63	6	MF	Park Joo-Ho				71
7	MF	Mathew Leckie					18	FW	Lee Jeong-Hyeop				87
SUBSTITUTES													
9	FW	Tomi Juric				63	1	GK	Jung Sung-Ryong				
11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					2	DF	Kim Chang-Soo				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					4	DF	Kim Ju-Young				87
13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					8	MF	Kim Min-Woo				
14	MF	James Troisi	105			71	9	FW	Cho Young-Cheol				
16	MF	Nathan Burns					11	FW	Lee Keun-Ho				63
17	MF	Matthew McKay				74	12	MF	Han Kyo-Won				
18	GK	Eugene Galekovic					14	MF	Han Kook-Young				71
19	MF	Lefteris "Terry" Antonis					15	MF	Lee Myung-Joo				
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					21	GK	Kim Seung-Gyu				
23	MF	Mark "Marco" Bresciano											
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Ulrich Stielike				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Park Il-Ki				
Referee		Alireza Faghani (Iran)											
Assistant Referee 1		Reza Sokhandan (Iran)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohammadreza Abofzali (Iran)											

match report from FFA

The Socceroos are the Asian champions after completing a fairytale tournament by beating Korea Republic 2-1 after extra-time in a gripping Asian Cup final on Saturday night.

In an epic decider substitute James Troisi struck a truly golden-goal in the 105th minute, blasting home from close range after Kim Jin Hyeon spilled Tomi Juric's cross into his path.

Australia looked like they would win the match in normal time, leading right until the death through midfielder Massimo Luongo's first half scorcher.

But deep in stoppage time at the end of the match, Korean superstar Son Heung Min stunned Ange Postecoglou's side with a powerful finish to save his team and send the match to extra-time.

Somehow the Aussies regrouped and found some more energy with the two substitutes combining for a superb winner.

Juric looked well-shackled by two defenders on the by-line but flicked the ball between the legs of Kim Jin Su before regaining possession and crossing, with Troisi in the right spot to smash it in and secure an historic victory.

Beaten finalists four years ago the Socceroos weren't to be denied this time, reversing the defeat to Korea from the group stage a fortnight ago as well as vindicating Postecoglou's regeneration of the squad since he took over 14 months ago.

While Troisi was the match-winner the home side had contributors all over the park.

Luongo – who has emerged as the Socceroos superstar at this tournament had another brilliant game, skipper Mile Jedinak immense in the middle of the park, while central defenders Matthew Spiranovic and Trent Sainsbury thwarted a host of Korean attacks.

For the visitors – who hadn't conceded a goal in the tournament until Luongo struck – their 55-year wait for an Asian Cup crown will go on for another four years at least.

A sell-out crowd of almost 77,000 made for a cracking atmosphere in Stadium Australia, giving all the ingredients for what was to be a special night.

Socceroos defender Ivan Franjic overcame a hip problem to start and was in the action straight away, picking up a yellow card for a cynical tug-back on Park Joo Ho.

It was the hosts who fired the first warning shot through Jedinak, his powerful free-kick from 25-metres out dipping just over Jin Hyeon's crossbar.

With so much at stake it was no surprise that there was plenty of feeling in the opening exchanges as both sides were guilty of some crunching challenges.

The match then sprung to life midway through the first half with chances at either end in the space of a minute.

First it was the Koreans who were inches away from taking the lead, Kwak Taehwi heading wide from close range from a pinpoint Ki Sung Yueng free-kick.

Before the visitors had time to rue that miss they were almost behind themselves.

Robbie Kruse got free down the right and put in an early cross with Tim Cahill getting in front of his marker and then firing off a shot which Jin Hyeon did well to parry wide.

The Koreans then enjoyed a dominant spell with star winger Son at the centre of most of their dangerous moments.

The Bayer Leverkusen man saw a superb volley float just wide of Mat Ryan's post eight minutes before the break and a minute later it was only a sliding Luongo challenge that deflected his goal-bound shot over the bar.

A free-kick right on the edge of the box soon after presented the next scare for the hosts but Ki's effort didn't have enough power to trouble Ryan.

Just when it seemed like the Socceroos would be happy to hold on until half-time, their new star delivered a gem.

Receiving the ball in traffic 30-metres from goal, Luongo turned with the ball, took one step forward then unleashed a thunderous shot into the bottom corner.

The Stadium Australia crowd – nervous just minutes earlier – erupted with joy as the entire Socceroos side wheeled off to celebrate.

Postecoglou's men now had just 45 minutes to hold on to secure the crown.

Chasing the game it was no surprise the Koreans lifted the tempo on the resumption. They were getting plenty of joy down the flanks but the Socceroos were doing well to repel the danger.

Set pieces were causing Australia trouble and Kwak got on the end of another free-kick and this time headed straight at Ryan.

The Socceroos weren't about to park the bus and Mathew Leckie forced a smart save on the hour mark before Trent Sainsbury headed just wide from the ensuing corner.

As fatigue started to set in Postecoglou called on the fresh legs of Tomi Juric and James Troisi for Cahill and Kruse.

Franjic lasted 74 minutes before his troublesome hip gave way, forcing a reshuffle with Mark Milligan reverting to right-back and Matt McKay coming on in midfield.

The Koreans continued to apply the pressure without seriously threatening Ryan's goal but just when it looked like the Socceroos would hold on, Son pounced in stoppage time.

The Australian defence failed to clear a bouncing ball with Ki sliding in Son who produced a classy finish past Ryan to send the final into extra-time.

It was their substitutes Juric and Troisi combined to get the Socceroos back in front and this time there would be no late fight-back from Korea.

Australia (Luongo 45', Troisi 105'); **Korea Republic** (Son 90+2)

Crowd: 76,385

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
25th. March 2015, 20.30			Fritz-Walter Stadion, Kaiserslautern, Germany				Fine					47106	
Germany..2 v. Australia..2													
half time, Germany..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Ron-Robert Zieler					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Shkodran Mustafi					2	DF	Ivan Franjic				
4	DF	Benedikt Höwedes					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				77
14	DF	Holger Badstuber				47	24	DF	Luke DeVere				
16	MF	Karim Bellarabi				63	3	DF	Jason Davidson				
8	MF	Mesut Özil					5	MF	Mark Milligan				67
6	MF	Sami Khedira				62	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	49			
21	MF	Ilkay Gündogan					17	MF	Matthew McKay				77*
3	DF	Jonas Hector					16	MF	Nathan Burns				60
19	MF	Mario Götze				72*	7	MF	Mathew Leckie				
11	MF	Marco Reus	16			72	14	MF	James Troisi	39			87
SUBSTITUTES													
17	DF	Jerome Boateng					10	MF	Oliver Bozanic				77*
15	MF	Sebastian Rudy				47	9	FW	Tomi Juric				87
9	MF	André Schürrle				63	11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				60
23	FW	Max Kruse				72*	25	MF	Christopher Oikonomidis				
13	FW	Thomas Müller					19	DF	Tarek Elrich				
5	DF	Mats Hummels					6	DF	Bailey Wright				77
10	FW	Lukas Podolski	80			72	8	MF	Aaron Mooy				67
22	GK	Roman Weidenfeller					18	GK	Adam Federici				
7	MF	Bastian Schweinsteiger					13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
20	MF	Christoph Kramer				62							
18	MF	Toni Kroos											
Team Coach		Joachim Löw					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Michael Oliver (England)											
Assistant Referee 1		Stuart Burt (England)											
Assistant Referee 2		Peter Kirkup (England)											

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have gone within a whisker of upsetting Germany with a late Lukas Podolski goal salvaging a 2-2 draw for the world champions in Kaiserslautern on Thursday morning (AEDT).

Ange Postecoglou's side looked on track for a famous win when Asian Cup hero James Troisi and skipper Mile Jedinak scored the goals either side of the break to cancel out Marco Reus' early opener.

But Podolski scored nine minutes from time to spare Die Mannschaft's blushes and deny Australia what would have been a huge win and their second in a row against the Germans following the 2-1 triumph in 2011.

At the Fritz-Walter Stadion - the scene of the Socceroos' most-famous World Cup win in 2006 - the under-strength Aussies took the game to the hosts and had a host of chances to win the match.

While they will be disappointed not to have held on, there are plenty of positives for Postecoglou to take heading towards Tuesday's next friendly against FYR Macedonia.

Brisbane Roar's Luke DeVere was handed his debut as one of five changes to side that won the Asian Cup.

Troisi, Nathan Burns, Matt McKay and Alex Wilkinson also started in place of injured Tim Cahill, Matthew Spiranovic and Robbie Kruse, while Massimo Luongo and Trent Sainsbury weren't quite fully fit.

With a crucial Euro 2016 qualifier against Georgia early next week, German coach Joachim Loew kept the likes of Manuel Neuer, Mats Hummels, Toni Kroos, Bastien Schweinsteiger and Thomas Muller on the bench but Reus, Sami Khedira, Mesut Ozil and Mario Gotze all started.

In an emotional start to the evening, the game was preceded by a minute's silence for the victims of the Germanwings plane crash, while both sets of players wore black armbands.

It was the Socceroos who started on the front foot with the new-look attack of Mathew Leckie and Nathan Burns both squandering glorious chances inside the first 13 minutes.

First Leckie wrong-footed German defender Benedikt Howedes but could only drag his shot across the face of goal, before Burns headed wide from close range just minutes later.

The close calls seemed to wake the home side up and they showed their class by taking the lead soon after.

Sami Khedira robbed Jedinak of possession on halfway and surged forward, getting to the Australian box before playing a deft ball to Reus, who slid and got a touch just in front of Mat Ryan to score.

Another Jedinak turnover almost gifted Reus his second six minutes later but the Borussia Dortmund man fired his one-on-one chance into the side-netting.

Leckie's pace was causing the German defence all sorts of problems, while the Socceroo skipper almost redeemed himself with a long-range shot which drew a fine save from Ron-Robert Zieler.

While Australia's enterprise and attacking approach had seen them create some good opportunities, they needed something to show for their encouraging display.

And Troisi delivered just before the break.

The German defence switched off at a throw-in, allowing Burns the space to wriggle free, get in a cross from the left which the Zulte Waregem attacker headed home powerfully.

It was no more than the Socceroos deserved and things got even better five minutes into the second half.

Troisi was again involved, some fancy footwork on the edge of the box drawing a foul to win a free-kick in a dangerous position.

And Jedinak made it count, curling a free-kick over the wall and inside the post, with Zieler unable to keep it out despite getting a glove on it.

The Aussies were in front and had the world champions rocking and could sense a huge shock was on the cards.

Only the width of a post denied Leckie a third 20 minutes from time after a lightning counter-attack ended with the striker heading Tommy Oar's cross against the woodwork.

By this stage both sides had made a host of changes and it was a couple German substitutes that combined for the equaliser.

Andre Schurrle surged into the Australian box down the left before cutting it back to Podolski who tucked it in at the far post.

The Socceroos were denied a famous win but showed the world they are an emerging force ahead of qualifiers for Russia 2018.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
30th. March 2015, 20.00			National Arena Filip II of Macedonia Stadium, Skopje, FYR Macedonia				Fine, cold						
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia..0 v. Australia..0													
half time, FYR Macedonia..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Martin Bogatinov				45	18	GK	Adam Federici				60
2	DF	Daniel Georgievski				73	19	DF	Tarek Elrich				
18	DF	Darko Velkovski					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
6	DF	Vanche Shikov					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				45
3	DF	Kire Risteovski					13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
17	MF	Marjan Radeski				45*	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
15	MF	Duško Trajčevski		66		85	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		43		71
4	MF	Artim Polozhani					8	MF	Aaron Mooy		51		61
7	MF	Aleksandar Trajkovski				69	16	FW	Nathan Burns				81
8	FW	Dejan Blaževski					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
10	FW	Agim Ibraimi					14	FW	James Troisi				57*
SUBSTITUTES													
13	DF	Stefan Ristovski				73	11	MF	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				45
14	MF	Blaže Todorovski				45*	10	MF	Oliver Bozanic				71
20	MF	Enis Bardhi				85	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				60
9	FW	Krste Velkoski					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
19	MF	Besart Abdurahimi				69	6	DF	Bailey Wright				45*
22	GK	Kristijan Naumovski				45	2	DF	Ivan Franjic				
5	DF	Bojan Markoski					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
							9	FW	Tomi Juric				61
							25	MF	Christopher Oikonomidis				81
Team Coach		Bosko Gjurovski					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Edin Jakupović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)											
Assistant Referee 1		Sreten Udovičić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)											
Assistant Referee 2		Senad Ibrišimbegović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)											

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have been held to a dour 0-0 draw by a stubborn FYR Macedonia in Skopje on Tuesday morning (AEDT).

In a match of very few clear-cut chances, Australia was easily the better side but lacked the same cutting edge they showed against Germany last week.

It was a fifth game in a row without defeat for the Socceroos and their final hit-out before the road to Russia – the AFC World Cup qualifying campaign – begins in June.

Australia lacked the same energy and quality they did against the Germans – especially in midfield - with the home side making it hard by sitting deep with most players behind the ball.

The small crowd also didn't help theirs or the match's cause, with no real atmosphere inside the Nacional Arena Filip II Makendinski Stadium.

Ange Postecoglou made six changes to the side which drew 2-2 with the world champions, including handing a debut to Adelaide United's Tarek Elrich at right-back.

Adam Federici started in goal, Aziz Behich, Aaron Mooy and Asian Cup heroes Trent Sainsbury and Massimo Luongo also came in the eleven.

After a scrappy start it was the Socceroos which created the first real chance on 12 minutes, with the front three all involved.

Mathew Leckie found Nathan Burns on the right and the Wellington Phoenix attacked burst into the box and finding James Troisi, but his snap shot took was deflected wide of goal.

The bumpy surface was making it difficult for the Socceroos to play their quick tempo, passing game and the quality of the contest suffered as a result.

After winning a free-kick on the left wing, Burns picked himself up to get the ball short before turning past a couple of defenders and surging into the box, only to shoot straight at Bogatinov.

The second half started in a similar vein to the first, with the Socceroos enjoying most of the possession and trying to unlock FYR Macedonia's compact defence.

Leckie almost did that 12 minutes after the break, getting on the end of Burns' cross but his far-post header sailed just over the bar.

The FC Ingolstadt man went even closer midway through the half, turning brilliantly on Behich's ball into the box, with Leckie's powerful low drive forcing substitute 'keeper Kristijan Naumovski into a smart save.

With nine minutes to go, impressive teenager Chris Ikonmidis was brought on for his international debut, becoming Socceroos No.579 in the process.

But not even the Lazio winger's youthful exuberance could spring the contest to life late on as both sides were content to play out a stalemate.

Now it's all focus on April 14's World Cup qualifying draw in Kuala Lumpur before taking the first steps on the long road to Russia 2018 in June.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
16th. June 2015, 20.00			Dolena Omurzakova Stadium, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan				Clear			24C		18000	
Kyrgyzstan..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Kyrgyzstan..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
16	GK	Valery Kashuba					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Valerii Kichin					2	DF	Ivan Franjic				
7	DF	Azamat Baimatov (c)					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
4	DF	Daniel Nii Armah Tagoe		31			13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
6	MF	Viktor Maier					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson		83		
10	FW	Mirlan Murzaev				72	5	MF	Mark Milligan				
19	FW	Vitalij Lux				80	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	2			
20	MF	Bahtiyar Duishebekov		57			4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				87
21	MF	Farhat Musabekov				65	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				71
22	MF	Anton Zemlianuhin					14	FW	James Troisi				
23	MF	Edgar Bernhardt					16	FW	Nathan Burns				56
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Pavel Matiash					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
3	DF	Talant Samsaliev					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
5	DF	Kursanbek Sheratov					9	FW	Tomi Juric				87
8	MF	Aziz Sydykov					10	MF	Oliver Bozanic				
9	DF	Tamirlan Kozubaev					11	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar	67			56
11	MF	Vadim Kharchenko				72	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
12	GK	Ruslan Amirov					17	MF	Matthew McKay				71
13	DF	Marat Adjiniiazov					18	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
14	MF	Pavel Sidorenko					19	FW	Daniel Peter de Silva				
15	MF	Tursunali Rustamov					20	DF	Tomislav Mrcela				
17	MF	Ildar Amirov				66	21	DF	Tarek Elrich				
18	FW	Almazbek Mirzaliyev	90+2			80	23	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				
Team Coach		Aleksandr Krestinin					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Khamis Mohammed Al-Marri (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Taleb Salem Al-Marri (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Juma Mohammed Al-Burshaid (Qatar)											

Azamat Baimatov is also shown as Azamat Baymatov. Bahtiyar Duishebekov is also shown as Bahtiyar Duyshebekov. Marat Adjiniiazov is also shown as Marat Ajiniyazov.

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have made a winning start to their World Cup qualifying campaign, holding off a determined Kyrgyzstan to record a hard-fought 2-1 win in Bishkek on Tuesday.

Goals in the first and second half respectively from captain Mile Jedinak and substitute Tommy Oar sealed all three points for Ange Postecoglou's Asian champions, who are attempting to reach a fourth successive World Cup finals at Russia 2018.

Australia made a flying start to the game at a packed Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in the early hours of Wednesday morning (AEST), charging forward from kick-off and winning a free-kick through Mathew Leckie, whose driving run ended in a body check by Azamat Baimatov.

Skipper Jedinak scored directly from the subsequent free-kick, his low strike kicking up off the uneven surface and eluding goalkeeper Valery Katsuba.

If head coach Ange Postecoglou or the visiting players hoped that early blow would break Kyrgyzstan's resistance before it had even begun, they would be disappointed.

The Central Asian side, ranked 177th in the world, mounted a forceful response and enjoyed by far the better of the rest of the half, creating dangerous opportunities and threatening Mathew Ryan's goal on several occasions through the likes of Mirlan Murzaev and Vitalij Lux, with Anton Zemlianukhin pulling the strings.

Australia by contrast barely mustered another opening after the move that led to the first goal, as Kyrgyzstan's daring high defensive line and offside trap denied time and space to the Socceroos' midfielders and forwards.

It was more of the same from the hosts after the break, Murzaev in particular rampaging down the left and winning a succession of corners in the first 10 minutes of the second half.

The 25-year-old went close to equalising with a back-heeled attempt after being found by a long throw in the 53rd minute. It took a fortuitous block and some more desperate defending to scramble the ball away, a familiar story for Australia's overworked backline.

Seeking to wrest some of the momentum back in his team's favour, Postecoglou introduced Oar in place of Nathan Burns in the 56th minute. The substitution paid off handsomely as the free agent, who left Utrecht at the end of last season, began to cause the hosts problems with his pace and directness on the left flank.

Just 10 minutes after coming on, the forward was released in behind the Kyrgyzstan defence by an outstanding Mark Milligan through-ball. Oar received the delivery, raced clear of his nearest opponent and slotted a

good finish beyond Katsuba and into the far corner of the net.

It was harsh on Alexander Krestinin's side, who had dominated the game since going behind without managing to force the goal their tireless efforts deserved.

When they did finally breach the Socceroos' backline, it took a handball by substitute Almazbek Mirzaliev to bundle the ball home at the back post from an injury-time corner. The infringement went unnoticed by the match officials, but effort arrived too late for the home team to mount a comeback.

Kyrgyzstan's vocal supporters must console themselves with memories of an entertaining clash against the regional heavyweights, while Australia's attentions turn to a home game against Bangladesh in Perth on September 3, when Postecoglou is likely to demand a far more measured, assured performance from his troops.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
3rd. September 2015, 21.00			Perth Oval, Perth, Western Australia (nib Stadium)				Cool			15C		19495	
Australia..5 v. Bangladesh..0													
half time, Australia..4 v. Bangladesh..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Adam Federici					1	GK	Mohammad Sahidul Alam				
3	DF	Jason Davidson					3	DF	Topu Barman				
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					4	DF	Mohammed Yeasin Khan				
8	DF	Bailey Wright					12	DF	Mohamed Nasirul Islam Nazir				46
23	DF	Tarek Elrich					15	DF	Ashraf Mohamed Linkon				
5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				76	6	MF	Jamal Harris Bhuyan				
									Mohamed Mamunul Islam Mamun (c)				
14	MF	Aaron Mooy	62				8	MF					
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					10	MF	Hemanta Vincent Biswas				37
7	FW	Mathew Leckie	6			62	7	FW	Mohammed Enamul Hoque				87
16	FW	Nathan Burns	29				9	FW	Mohamed Jahid Hasan Ameli				
20	FW	Tomas Rogic	8, 20			62*	18	FW	Mohammed Jewel Rana				
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Eugene Galekovic					2	DF	Raihan Hasan				
									Yeamin Ahmed Chowdhury				
2	FW	Jackson Irvine				76	5	DF	Munna				46
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				62	11	MF	Sohel Rana				
9	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				62*	13	MF	Mohamed Monaem Khan Raju				37
10	FW	Benjamin Halloran					14	DF	Atiqur Rahman Meshu				
11	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					16	MF	Mohammed Emon Mahmud				
12	GK	Aleksander Cisak					17	FW	Mohamed Zahid Hossain				
13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					19	DF	Abdul Baten Mojumdar Komal				87
15	MF	Luke Brattan					20	FW	Mohammad Toklis Ahmed				
17	MF	Matthew McKay					21	FW	Aminur Rahman Sajib				
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					22	GK	Russel Mahmud Liton				
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					23	GK	Ashraful Islam Rana				
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Lodewijk de Kruif				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Amirul Islam				
Referee		Vo Minh Tri (Vietnam)											
Assistant Referee 1		Pham Manh Long (Vietnam)											
Assistant Referee 2		Nguyen Trung Hau (Vietnam)											

Russel Mahmud Liton is also shown as Mohammad Rasel Mahmud, and Raihan Hasan as Rayhan Hasan.

match report from FFA

The Socceroos served up an attacking masterclass, romping to an emphatic 5-0 win over a horribly outclassed Bangladesh in their FIFA 2018 World Cup qualifier at nib Stadium on Thursday night.

In the national team's first game in Perth in over a decade, the home fans were given a real treat with an eye-catching display which the 173rd-ranked Bengal Tigers simply had no answer to.

The returning Tom Rogic - in his first game in the green and gold for well over a year - and striker Nathan Burns both scored their first Socceroos goals in the rout.

It was 4-0 inside the first 30 minutes as the home side surged out of the blocks to ignite the crowd of 19,495 - the biggest-ever for a football match at the venue.

It's now two wins from two for Ange Postecoglou's side on the Road to Russia, ahead of a trip to play Tajikistan next Tuesday night.

The Socceroos boss threw up a selection surprise before kick-off, keeping stand-in skipper Tim Cahill on the bench, with Mark Milligan leading the side from midfield.

Adam Federici started in goal, Bailey Wright got the nod in central defence alongside Matthew Spiranovic, while Aaron Mooy, Rogic and Massimo Luongo were in midfield behind an attacking duo of Burns and Mathew Leckie. And it was the latter that got the procession underway inside six minutes when he tucked home a precise cut-back from Luongo. It was a simple finish compared to his howitzer for FC Ingolstadt on the weekend but just as important, Leckie's first goal for the Socceroos since his maiden strike against Canada in October 2013.

Two minutes later and it was 2-0, this time Tarek Elrich got to the byline and centered to Rogic at the top of the box, the classy playmaker taking one touch to control before lashing a shot past Sahidul Alam.

Even with every player behind the ball, Bangladesh simply couldn't contain the home side's pace and movement as they carved out chances at will.

Rogic had his second on 20 minutes after another flowing move, his first-time strike from Jason Davidson's cross going in by the aid of a big deflection.

With little to do in defence Australia's fullbacks played almost as wingers and another Davidson cross led to the fourth goal, with Sahidul managing to keep out Leckie's downward header, only for Burns to sweep home the rebound.

Four goals in just 29 minutes and the Socceroos were flying.

It was more than half an hour before their next goal but it was worth the wait. Milligan drilled a pass into the feet of Mooy just outside the box, the midfielder turning with his first touch before rifling an unstoppable drive into the roof of the net.

The introduction of Cahill and youngster Chris Ikonomidis soon after brought a huge reception from the Perth fans, with the latter going close to his first international goal soon after with a header that clipped the crossbar.

With seven minutes left another of the second half substitutes Jackson Irvine also hit the woodwork with a header as the home side tried desperately to add to their tally.

But there would be no more goals. Another crucial step towards a fourth straight World Cup is ticked off, but bigger challenges await.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
8th. September 2015, 18.00			Republican Central Stadium, Dushanbe, Tajikistan				Sunny and good			28C		19000	
Tajikistan..0 v. Australia..3													
half time, Tajikistan..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
16	GK	Alisher Dodov					18	GK	Adam Federici				
3	DF	Farkhod Vasiev					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
4	DF	Eraj Rajabov					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
6	DF	Davron Ergashev					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
19	DF	Akhtam Nazarov				75	19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
8	MF	Nuriddin Davronov					5	MF	Mark Milligan	57	59		
10	MF	Khurshed Makhmudov (c)				63	14	MF	Aaron Mooy				68
11	MF	Dzhakhongir Dzhaliilov					17	MF	Matthew McKay				68*
18	MF	Fatkhullo Fatkhuloev					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
17	FW	Dilshod Vasiev					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)	74, 90+1			
21	FW	Manuchekhr Dzhaliilov					7	FW	Mathew Leckie		65		79
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Alisher Tuychiev					1	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
2	DF	Daler Tukhtasunov					2	FW	Jackson Irvine				
5	MF	Bakhtiar Choriev					9	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				
7	MF	Faridoon Sharipov					10	FW	Baenjamin Halloran				
9	MF	Nozim Babadjanov					11	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				79
13	GK	Mirali Murodov					12	GK	Aleksander Cisek				
14	DF	Hasan Rustamov					13	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
15	MF	Jahongir Aliev					15	MF	Luke Brattan				
20	MF	Parvizdzhon Abdulloyevich Umarbayev				63	16	FW	Nathan Burns				68*
22	FW	Kamil Saidov					20	FW	Tomas Rogic				68
23	FW	Akhtam Khamrakulov				75	22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
							23	DF	Tarek Elrich				
Team Coach		Mubin Ergashev					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Ulugbek Karimov					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Jameel Juma Abdulhusain Mohamed (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Mohamed Jaafar Mohamed Salman (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Nawaf Shaheen Moosa (Bahrain)											

Davron Ergashev is also shown as Davronjon Ergashev. Fatkhullo Fatkhuloev is also shown as Fathullo Fathuloev. Manuchekhr Dzhaliylov is also shown as Manuchehr Dzhaliylov. Daler Tukhtasunov is also shown as Dalerdjon Tukhtasunov. Parvizdzhon Umarbayev is also shown as Parvizjon Umarbdev. Bakhtiar Choriev is also shown as Bakhtiyor Choriev. Faridoon Sharipov is also shown as Faridun Sharipov.

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have maintained their 100 percent record on the road to Russia 2018, seeing off a stubborn Tajikistan 3-0 in Dushanbe on Tuesday night.

Second half goals from stalwarts Mark Milligan and skipper Tim Cahill – who finished with a brace - ensured all three points for Australia, to maintain their spot on top of the group after three games.

It was a far tougher assignment for Ange Postecoglou's side than they faced against Bangladesh last week but they did what was required against the 158th-ranked East Asian nation.

Aaron Mooy produced another exceptional performance in midfield, while the back-four were again solid and disciplined for the entire 90 minutes.

Postecoglou made three changes from the side that crushed Bangladesh just five days ago. Tom Rogic, Nathan Burns Tarek Elrich all dropped to the bench, replaced by Matt McKay, Ryan McGowan and Cahill.

And it was Cahill that had Australia's best opportunities early on, missing the target with three separate headed chances.

The artificial surface at the Central Republican Stadium clearly affected the speed of the Socceroos game but they were still fizzing the ball around with confidence.

Mathew Leckie's pace was causing problems as well, but every time the visitors created a shooting-chance, a Tajik body was in the way.

The Socceroos' best chance of the first half came on the half hour mark with the home side somehow surviving a double scare.

Massimo Luongo's close-range effort was brilliant kept out by 'keeper Alisher Dodov, before the rebound eventually found its way into the path of Leckie at the top of the box, with his goal-bound effort cleared off the line.

Despite having almost double the possession and attempting 15 shots to the Tajiks three, the Green and Gold had to be content with being on level terms at the break.

Only the width of the crossbar denied the Socceroos and Mooy five minutes after the restart.

The Melbourne City star let rip with a powerful free-kick from 30 metres out, the ball dipping wickedly but only hitting the woodwork with the 'keeper beaten.

Mooy's next involvement seven minutes later was more telling, playing in the corner which fell to Milligan to poke it home from a couple of metres out.

The result was made safe 17 minutes from time with Cahill finishing off a brilliant move for his 40th Socceroos goal.

Milligan chipped the ball out to substitute Burns on the right, the FC Tokyo man rewarding Ryan McGowan's lung-busting overlapping run with an exquisite pass before the fullback found Cahill for a simple tap-in.

After Luongo and Burns both squandered glorious opportunities soon in the latter stages, Cahill put the icing on the cake in the final minute with a superb header from Tommy Oar's centre.

That's three wins from three for the Socceroos sets up a top-of-the-table clash away in Jordan next month.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
8th. October 2015, 17.00			Amman International Stadium, Amman, Jordan			Good			20C		11462		
Jordan..2 v. Australia..0													
half time, Jordan..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Amer Shafi Mahmoud Sabbah (c)					1	GK	Adam Federici				
3	DF	Mohammad Ghassan Al-Basha					3	DF	Jason Davidson				
17	DF	Ibrahim Farhan Al-Zawahreh					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic		46		
18	DF	Hassan Abdel-Fattah Mahmoud	47(pk)				8	DF	Bailey Wright				76
21	DF	Mohammad Abdul-Samee' Al-Dmeiri					23	DF	Tarek Elrich				
4	MF	Baha' Abdel-Rahman Suleiman					5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
20	MF	Hamza Ali Khaled Al-Dardour	85			90+4	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
11	FW	Oday Samir Zahran					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
13	FW	Yaseen Anas Al-Bakhit				87	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
14	FW	Abdallah Khaled Deeb Salim					10	FW	Tomas Rogic				66
16	FW	Raja'i Ayed Fadel Hassan				88	11	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				46
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Ahmad Abdel-Halim Abdel-Salam Al-Zugheir					2	DF	James Meredith				
5	FW	Ahmed Samir Saleh					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				66
6	MF	Saeed Hassan Murjan					9	FW	Tomi Juric				76
7	FW	Munther Omar Abu Amarah				90+4	12	GK	Aleksander Cisak				
8	FW	Odai Yusuf Ismaeel Al-Saify					14	FW	James Troisi				
9	FW	Rakan Bani Khaled Al-Khalidi					15	MF	Luke Brattan				
10	FW	Mahmoud Salim Za'tara				87	16	FW	Nathan Burns				46
12	GK	Ahmed Abdel-Sattar Nawwas					17	MF	Matthew McKay				
15	MF	Shareef Adnan Nassar				88	18	GK	Eugene Galekovic				
19	FW	Ihsan Nabil Farhan Haddad					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
22	GK	Moataz Yaseen Mahjoub Al-Fityani					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
23	FW	Yousef Ahmad Mohammad Al-Rawashdeh					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
Team Coach		Paul Joseph Put					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Iram Said Abdel Latif Al-Tally					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Masaaki Toma (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Otsuka Haruhiro (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Toshiyuki Tanaka (Japan)											

Hamza Al-Dardour is also shown as Hamza Al-Daradreh. Yaseen Al-Bakhit is also shown as Yaseen Bakheet. Ihsan Haddad is also shown as Ehsan Manel Haddad

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have been beaten 2-0 by a Hamza Al Dardour-inspired Jordan in Amman on Friday morning (AEDT).

Jordan have now leapfrogged Australia into top spot in Group B of FIFA Russia World Cup 2018 qualification, leading on 10 points with the Socceroos still on nine.

Jordan took the lead in the first minute of the second half with an emphatically taken spot-kick after striker Al Dardour was brought down. And Al Dardour deservedly sealed the win with a cool finish with just minutes left to leave Australia stunned with their first loss in qualification.

At the Amman International Stadium, it was the top two sides in Group B in a blockbuster FIFA Russia World Cup 2018™ qualifier between the skilful Australians and intense Jordanians backed by a vociferous home support.

The Socceroos controlled the game in the first 15 minutes with an attacking, ball-playing midfield featuring Tom Rogic, Aaron Mooy and Massimo Luongo.

Confident on the ball, this took the crowd out of equation but Jordan caused the Socceroos a few problems as they worked their way back into the contest.

Forward Al Dardour leading the charge up front as the Jordanians looked to get in behind Australia's back four with long balls over the top.

Both sides created good chances with Rogic looking a threat but right on the half-time break, had it not been for Adam Federici's knee, Jordan would have taken the lead.

Jason Davidson was turned inside out by the speedy Al Bakhit and his low cross somehow ricocheted off the Bournemouth keeper and away.

It was a portent of things to come. After just 30 seconds into the second half, Al Dardour got on the end of another long ball and in the contest with Spiranovic was adjudged to have taken him down in the box.

Abdel-Fattah's smashing finish sent the crowd into raptures.

Jordan's confidence was up as the home side's intensity ramped up another notch. The ball wasn't falling for the Aussies. Jordan's time-wasting tactics started as early as the 65th minute as a shock loss loomed.

Tim Cahill came on for Rogic as Ange Postecoglou looked to his star goal-scorer and game-changer with 25 minutes to go.

Jordan was happy to sit back and hit the Aussies on the break. The Socceroos came close after Mooy's long-range shot off a rebound from his own set piece was stopped by keeper Amer Shafi.

But quality in front of goal was lacking as Tomi Juric came on with 15 minutes of normal time remaining.

Cahill with a great chance to score inside the final 12 minutes but his angled header off a cross was pushed wide by Shafi.

And Leckie should've done much better after he was found in space down the Jordanian left but his cross ballooned too high and the danger was averted.

It was to prove costly after Al Dardour swept home the second goal on 84 minutes.

The Aussie defence was stretched and Davidson looked to have been fouled but with no whistle, Dardour was found in the box and he coolly slotted past Federici.

In Amman, as it was three years ago, there was to be no comeback for the Socceroos.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
12th. November 2015, 20.00			Canberra Stadium, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (GIO Stadium)				Cool, cloudy			16C		19412	
Australia..3 v. Kyrgyzstan..0													
half time, Australia..1 v. Kyrgyzstan..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Adam Federici					1	GK	Pavel Matiash				
2	DF	James Meredith					2	DF	Valerii Kichin				
8	DF	Bailey Wright					3	DF	Talant Samsaliev (c)				
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					7	DF	Azamat Baimatov				77
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					9	MF	Islam Shamshiev		21		58
5	MF	Mark Milligan					4	FW	Viktor Maier				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy					17	FW	Ildar Amirov	70(og)			
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	40(pk)			61	18	FW	Ivan Filatov				46
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					20	FW	Bahtiyar Duishebekov				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	50	90			21	FW	Farhat Musabekov				
9	FW	Tomi Juric					23	FW	Edgar Bernhardt				
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					5	DF	Kursanbek Sheratov				
3	DF	Jason Davidson					8	MF	Aziz Sydykov				
10	FW	Tomas Rogic				61	11	FW	Kairat Zhyrgalbek Uulu		56		46
11	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar					12	GK	Zakir Ilyaveroovich Dzhalilov				
12	GK	Aleksander Cisak					13	DF	Tamirlan Kozubaev				77
14	FW	James Troisi				73	15	MF	Tursunali Rustamov				
16	FW	Nathan Burns				28, 73	16	GK	Valery Kashuba				
17	MF	Matt McKay					19	FW	Vitalij Lux				58
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson											
23	DF	Joshua Risdon											
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Aleksandr Krestinin				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager						
Referee		Kim Sang Woo (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yang Byoung Eun (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Kim Young Ha (Korea Republic)											

Zakir Dzhalilov is also shown as Zakir Jalilov.

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have got back on track on their Road to Russia after a comprehensive 3-0 win over Kyrgyzstan in their FIFA World Cup 2018 qualifier at GIO Stadium on Thursday night. In front of just under 20,000 fans in Canberra, the Aussies cantered to victory thanks to skipper Mile Jedinak's 40th-minute penalty and second-half goals via Tim Cahill and Ildar Amirov's own goal. The emphatic victory sees the Socceroos close the gap on group leaders Jordan to just one point, ahead of next week's clash with Bangladesh. Much to the delight of the home fans, Canberra boy Tom Rogic came off the bench for a 30-minute cameo as the green and gold bounced back from last month's shock loss to Jordan with a bang. The only concern for coach Ange Postecoglou are injuries to attackers Tomi Juric and Nathan Burns which could rule them out of Tuesday's game in Dhaka. Bradford City's James Meredith made his debut at left-back in a surprising 4-4-2 formation with Juric and Cahill in a two-pronged strikeforce. And it was Cahill that almost gave the Socceroos a dream start inside two minutes. Jedinak surged forward down the left and his cross took a deflection before finding Cahill, his acrobatic volley superbly saved by Pavel Matiash. The visitors were content to sit back and absorb the pressure, allowing the Socceroos a mountain of possession – more than 70 percent for the first half. So it was only a matter of time before they carved out another opening and again Cahill was inches away from getting it. After Aaron Mooy was denied by another smart save by Matiash, the loose ball fell to Cahill but his curling left-foot strike hit the post and not the back of the net. An injury to Juric saw Burns introduced before the half hour mark and his injection of pace and trickery gave a new dimension to the Socceroos attack. Mark Milligan somehow squandered a certain goal seven minutes from the break, failing to connect with a simple tap-in from close range after Matiash spilled Burns initial effort. Luckily for the midfielder, his blushes were spared a minute later. The Socceroos won a penalty after Burns was clattered into in the box, Jedinak emphatically dispatching it into the corner for a 1-0 lead at the break. Intent not to give the visitors a sniff, the Socceroos doubled their lead less than five minutes after the resumption with Cahill bagging his 42nd international goal. Mooy split open the defence with a perfectly-weighted through ball and the evergreen talisman did the rest before wheeling off to the corner flag for his trademark goal celebration. Hometown hero Rogic received a huge ovation as he came on for the last half hour, replacing a tiring Jedinak.

The Canberra faithful had more reason to cheer soon after as Mooy's corner was diverted into his own net by Amirov to give the scoreline a much truer reflection. And it would have been a whole lot more if not from some wasteful late finishing and some fine saves from the exceptional Matiash.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
17th. November 2015, 17.30			Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka, Bangladesh				Mild			25C		19730	
Bangladesh..0 v. Australia..4													
half time, Bangladesh..0 v. Australia..4													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mohammad Sahidul Alam					18	GK	Adam Federici				
2	DF	Raihan Hasan					2	DF	James Meredith				57
3	DF	Topu Barman					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
4	DF	Mohammed Yeasin Khan					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
12	DF	Mohamed Nasirul Islam Nazir					23	DF	Joshua Risdon				
16	DF	Abdul Baten Mojumdar Komal		42			13	MF	Aaron Mooy				46*
6	MF	Jamal Harris Bhuyan					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	43			
8	MF	Mohamed Mamunul Islam Mamun (c)		87			17	MF	Matthew McKay				
10	MF	Hemanta Vincent Biswas		40			21	MF	Massimo Luongo				46
13	MF	Mohamed Monaem Khan Raju		47			4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	6, 32, 37			
9	FW	Mohammad Ziban				87	16	FW	Nathan Burns				
SUBSTITUTES													
5	DF	Yeamin Ahmed Chowdhury Munna					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
7	FW	Aminur Rahman Sajib				87	3	DF	Jason Davidson				57
11	DF	Mohammad Faisal Mahmud					5	MF	Mark Milligan				
14	DF	Kesto Kumar Bose					11	FW	Thomas "Tommy" Oar				46
15	DF	Mohammed Wali Faisal					12	GK	Aleksander Cisak				
17	FW	Mohammad Toklis Ahmed					14	FW	James Troisi				46*
18	MF	Sohel Rana					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
19	MF	Mohammad Emon Mahmud Babu					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
20	FW	Mohammed Shakhawat Hossain Rony											
21	MF	Shahedul Alam Sahed											
22	GK	Russel Mahmud Liton											
23	GK	Ashraful Islam Rana											
Team Coach		Fabio Lopez					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Wang Di (People's Republic of China)											
Assistant Referee 1		Wang Dexin (People's Republic of China)											
Assistant Referee 2		Shi Xiang (People's Republic of China)											

Kesto Kumar Bose is also shown as Kasto Bosh, Mohammad Faisal Mahmud is also shown as Faisal Mahmood, Raihan Hasan is also shown as Rayhan Hasan, Hemanta Vincent Biswas is also shown as Hemonto Vincent, and Abdul Baten Mojumdar Komal is also shown as Abdul Mojumder.

match report from FFA

A first half hat-trick to evergreen striker Tim Cahill has helped the Socceroos to crush Bangladesh 4-0 in their World Cup qualifier in Dhaka on Tuesday night.

Cahill completed his treble in a smashing first half from Australia, taking his international tally to an incredible 45 goals in just 88 caps.

Skipper Mile Jedinak also found the scoresheet in the opening 45 minutes before Ange Postecoglou's side eased up somewhat with the three points secured.

For Cahill, it was the second time he has scored a hat-trick in the green and gold, coming 11 years after his other treble against Fiji at the 2004 Oceania Nations Cup.

In-form Hyundai A-League playmaker Aaron Mooy was again impressive, involved in three of the goals, while James Meredith, Matt McKay and Jedinak also had strong games.

The result takes the Socceroos to the top of the group, although Jordan could leapfrog them again if they beat Kyrgyzstan later on Wednesday morning (AEDT). *(Note:- Kyrgyzstan beat Jordan 1-0)*

There were four changes from the team that eased past Kyrgyzstan last week, most notably a debut for Perth Glory youngster Josh Risdon at right-back.

Central defender Alex Wilkinson, midfielder McKay and livewire Nathan Burns were the other additions.

But it was two established stars that combined for the opening goal inside six minutes.

The Bangladesh defence inexplicably left Cahill unmarked from an Aaron Mooy free-kick and the 35-year-old had no trouble diverting his header past Sahidul Alam.

The Socceroos were doing it easily, though the long grass at the Bangabandhu National Stadium was slowing them down, making it hard to zip their passes around.

It was only going to be a matter of time though before the goals came and the Aussies added three more before the break in an 11-minute period.

First Cahill poked home from close range after a goalmouth scramble from Risdon's cross before Mooy again teed him up for his hat-trick five minutes later.

The skipper then got in on the act two minutes before the break as he scored with a simple header to make it 4-0.

Tommy Oar and James Troisi were introduced at the break – for Mooy and Massimo Luongo – and there was no let up from the Socceroos as they continued to push for more goals.

Cahill almost had a fourth from a headed chance, while McKay saw his volley saved and Jedinak was denied a clever overhead kick goal by an acrobatic Alam save.

Despite their best efforts, there would be no more goals for the Australians as the intensity seeped out of the match late on.

The Socceroos now have just two qualifiers to come in this phase – both at home in March – against Tajikistan and a potentially defining fixture with Jordan.

2016

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
24th. March 2016, 19.30			Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, South Australia			Cloudy			21C		35439		
Australia..7 v. Tajikistan..0													
half time, Australia..2 v. Tajikistan..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Alisher Tuychiev		11		
8	DF	Bailey Wright					2	DF	Daler Tukhtasunov		27		
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					4	DF	Eraj Rajabov				
20	DF	Trent Salisbury		81			5	DF	Dzhakhongir Dzhalilov				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy					6	DF	Davron Ergashev		56		
14	MF	Bradley Smith					19	DF	Akhtam Nazarov				35
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	13(pk)			46	8	MF	Nuriddin Davronov				
16	MF	Nathan Burns	67, 87				9	MF	Jahongir Aliev				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo	3			67	10	MF	Khurshed Makhmudov (c)				60
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				76	14	MF	Faridoon Sharipov				
9	FW	Apostolos Giannou					21	FW	Manuchekhr Dzhalilov				73
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Jason Geria					11	FW	Davronjon Tukhtasunov				
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach					12	DF	Siyovush Asrorov				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill					13	GK	Kurbanali Babaev				
5	MF	Mark Milligan	57			46	15	DF	Manouchehr Ahmadv				60
6	DF	Joshua Risdon					17	MF	Dilshod Vasiev				35
10	MF	Robbie Kruse				76	20	DF	Firuz Garayev				
11	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis					22	FW	Kamil Saidov		85		73
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak											
17	MF	Matthew McKay											
18	GK	Adam Federici											
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson											
23	FW	Tomas Rogic	69, 72			67							
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Mubin Ergashev				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Ulugbek Karimov				
Referee		Fahad Jaber Al-Marri (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yousuf Aref M.A. Al-Shamari (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohammed Maki A. Alabakry (Saudi Arabia)											

Manouchehr Ahmadv is also shown as Manuchehr Akhmedov. Kurbanali Boboev is also shown as Kurbonali Babaev. Firuz Garayev is also shown as Firuz Karaev.

match report from FFA

A dominant Caltex Socceroos have crushed Tajikistan 7-0 in a one-sided FIFA World Cup 2018 qualifier at Adelaide Oval on Thursday night.

In Australia's first game in Adelaide in five years, the home fans were treated to an attacking masterclass by Australia which the overawed Tajiks had no answer to.

Massimo Luongo and Mile Jedinak scored inside the first 12 minutes to have the Socceroos 2-0 at the break before they ran riot in the second half.

It was carnage for the visitors as Mark Milligan scored another penalty early in the second half before Nathan Burns (two) and substitute Tom Rogic scored a brace within five minutes of coming off the bench.

And it could have been an even bigger win for the hosts, who hit the woodwork an astonishing four times in the second half.

Debutant Apostolos Giannou was one of the Socceroos' best, finishing with assists for four of the goals and unlucky not to get one himself with an effort that hit the post in the second half.

Playmaker Aaron Mooy continued his incredible run of form with another brilliant display in the middle of the park while local boy Ryan McGowan and Burns were also strong.

But the green and gold didn't have a bad player as they rarely got out of first gear, now needing only a point against Jordan on Tuesday to confirm their spot in the next stage of qualifying.

New boy Giannou was handed a debut up front and the 26-year-old made an immediate impact, setting up the opening goal inside two minutes.

Burns played the ball into Giannou at the top of the box, with the striker teeing up Luongo who arrowed a powerful shot into the bottom corner.

Soon after it was 2-0 and Giannou was again involved, racing onto a pinpoint through-ball by Jedinak only to be brought down in the box by keeper Alisher Tuychiev.

An ice-cool Jedinak had no trouble sweeping home from the spot for the skipper's 12th international goal

The Socceroos were playing some sublime attacking football. The passing was slick, the touches were assured and the movement off the ball was first-class.

It was the type of play Postecoglou has been craving with his side enjoying the acres of space and time on the ball afforded to them by the out-classed visitors.

Chance after chance went begging and a one-sided first half with Mat Leckie, Burns, Giannou and Jedinak all squandering excellent chances to add to the lead.

Milligan replaced Jedinak at the break and he had his name on the scoresheet within 12 minutes of the resumption.

Giannou was again in the thick of it, hauled down in the box by Ergashev Davronjon for another penalty, which Milligan dispatched with aplomb.

Burns added a fourth 10 minutes later with a simple tap-in but Mooy deserved all the credit.

The exceptional Melbourne City playmaker mesmerised the Tajikistan defence, showing great strength and skill to hold off two defenders before picking out Burns with a delightful cross.

Rogic came off the bench and made an immediate impact, scoring twice in the space of two minutes.

First he was credited with a goal after volleying home Mooy's free-kick, although replays suggested it might not have crossed the line before Giannou slammed it in.

Before the crowd could catch their breath they were celebrating again as Rogic shimmied past one defender and curled in a classy effort with the outside of his left foot.

Burns then completed the rout three minutes from time with a simple header from McGowan's cross.

Jordan is now the final hurdle for the Socceroos to overcome to win the group when the two sides meet in Sydney on Tuesday.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
29th. March 2016, 20.00			Sydney Football Stadium, Moore Park, Sydney, New South Wales (Allianz Stadium)				Very good			21C		24975	
Australia..5 v. Jordan..1													
half time, Australia..3 v. Jordan..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Amer Shafi Mahmoud Sabbah (c)				
6	DF	Joshua Risdon					3	DF	Mohammad Ghassan Al-Basha				
8	DF	Bailey Wright		80			17	DF	Ibrahim Farhan Al-Zawahreh				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					6	DF	Ihsan Nabil Farhan Haddad				
5	MF	Mark Milligan					11	DF	Oday Samir Zahran				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy	39			64*	4	MF	Baha' Abdel-Rahman Suleiman				
14	MF	Bradley Smith					7	MF	Munther Omar Abu Amarah				46*
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)	24, 44				10	MF	Ahmed Samir Saleh				46
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				64	13	MF	Yaseen Anas Al-Bakhit				
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				72	16	MF	Raja'i Ayed Fadel Hassan				
23	FW	Tomas Rogic	53	89			20	FW	Hamza Ali Khaled Al-Dardour				75
SUBSTITUTES													
2	FW	Jason Geria					2	FW	Mohammad Waleed Alawneh				
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach					5	DF	Mohannad Khairullah				
9	FW	Apostolos Giannou					8	FW	Yousef Mazen Al-Naber				
11	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				64	9	DF	Ahmad Ali Elias				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					12	GK	Mohammad Mahood Shatnawi				
16	FW	Nathan Burns				72	14	MF	Abdallah Khaled Deeb Salim	90			46
17	MF	Matthew McKay					15	MF	Fadi Mahmoud Awad Saleh				
18	GK	Adam Federici					18	FW	Baha' Faisal Abu Seif		77		75
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					19	DF	Anas Walid Khaled Bani Yaseen				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo	70			64*	21	FW	Ahmed Fawzi Mahmoud				
									Moataz Yaseen Mahjoub				
22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson					22	GK	Al-Fityani				
									Yousef Ahmad Mohammad				
							23	FW	Al-Rawashdeh		65		46*
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Harry Redknapp				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Isam Said Abdel Latif Altaily				
Referee		Kim Jong Hyeok (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yoon Kwang Yeol (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Kim Young Ha (Korea Republic)											

Hamza Al-Dardour is also shown as Hamza Al-Daradreh. Yaseen Al-Bakhit is also shown as Yaseen Bakheet. Ihsan Haddad is also shown as Ehsan Manel Haddad

The AFC has Jordan no.5 as Mohannad Al Souliman.

match report from FFA

The Caltex Socceroos have booked their spot in the next stage of World Cup qualifying in emphatic fashion, crushing Harry Redknapp's Jordan 5-1 on Tuesday night in Sydney.

A Tim Cahill brace either side of an Aaron Mooy goal had the result sewn up by half-time as the Socceroos raced to a 3-0 lead in front of almost 25,000 fans in Sydney.

And there was no let-up after the break with Tom Rogic and substitute Massimo Luongo getting in on the act to complete a superb display by the green and gold, soured only by Abdallah Deeb's late strike.

The result not only ensures top spot in the group and progression to the next stage of qualifying but gives the Aussies some revenge for the 2-0 loss in Amman in October.

Robbie Kruse led the way for the home side with three assists in the first half, while Cahill's double takes his international tally to 47 goals from 89 caps.

Kruse was on the end of a horror tackle by Yusef Ahmed Mohammad in the second half - which should have been punished with a straight red card - with the Bayer Leverkusen attacker forced off soon after with a possible knee injury.

Ange Postecoglou made five changes to the team that swept aside Tajikistan last week, with Cahill, Rogic, Kruse and Josh Risdon all in, while Mark Milligan got a start with skipper Mile Jedinak failing in his battle.

And the Socceroos controlled the game in the first 15 minutes, with the exciting, attacking contingent of Aaron Mooy, Rogic, Kruse and Mathew Leckie seeing plenty of the ball.

But the stubborn Jordan rearguard was proven hard to break down, with clear chances hard to come by on the poor Allianz Stadium surface.

Rogic went closest on 17 minutes when, given a tad too much space on the edge of the box, he hit a low shot for the corner which keeper Amer Shafi did well to tip around the post.

It was a sign of things to come. And just seven minutes later the home side had their opening goal.

Risdon and Mooy were both involved with the latter finding Kruse on the right and he drove to the byline before his cross gave Cahill an easy tap in.

The trademark celebration with the corner flag followed as the Socceroos took a giant stride towards the next stage of qualifiers.

Jordan were visibly tiring nearing the break and the Aussies sensed a second goal could kill off the contest.

Mooy delivered it six minutes before half-time. Again Kruse was the architect, picking up possession just inside Jordan's half and releasing Mooy clean through on goal with the Melbourne City man making no mistake.

It got better for Postecoglou's side just before the break as a trademark Cahill header - from Kruse's excellent centre - made it 3-0.

Jordan's confidence was sapped and Rogic stuck another dagger in eight minutes into the second half.

After Cahill's initial effort was blocked, the Celtic playmaker swooped on the loose ball, taking it around one defender before poking it past a helpless Shafi.

Leckie and Mooy were given an early rest, replaced by Chris Ikonomidis and Luongo and the two subs combined for Australia's fifth.

Brad Smith's quick throw found Ikonomidis free and his centre went right across the face of goal where Luongo was arriving to smash home from close range.

It could have got a whole lot uglier for Jordan last one as Rogic, Trent Sainsbury and Cahill all failed to capitalise on excellent opportunities.

Deeb got a consolation for the visitors in the last minute but it was of little consequence, with the Socceroos to await their opponents in the next stage at the draw in mid-April.

match report from AFC

Australia advanced to third round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and booked their spot at the 2019 AFC Asian Cup on Tuesday after cruising to a 5-1 win over Jordan at the Sydney Football Stadium.

The Socceroos were never in danger of losing once a Tim Cahill double and an Aaron Mooy strike put them three goals up at the break.

Tom Rogic and Massimo Luongo then struck in the second 45 to all but end Syria's hopes of a comeback, although the visitors did manage to restore some pride at the death when Abdallah Deeb.

The victory ensured Australia finished top of Group B with a five-point lead over the Jordanians, who will now have to settle for a place in the third round of Asian Cup qualifying after failing to progress as one of the four best runners-up in the joint-qualifiers.

Despite only needing to avoid defeat to seal top spot in the group, Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou had vowed before the game that his side would be going all out for the win.

They delivered on that promise from the opening whistle as they immediately gained a stranglehold on proceedings, and it was no surprise when took the lead six minutes before the half-hour mark; Robbie Kruse

running onto a neat pass from Mooy and whipping in a low cross that was swept home by Cahill inside the six-yard box.

The hosts doubled their tally in the 39th minute when Kruse skipped past Oday Zahran and clipped a perfect through-pass into the path of Mooy, who advanced on goal before calmly finishing past Amer Shafi.

The contest was effectively over a minute before halftime when Kruse emerged as the provider once more, finding space down the left and playing in an excellent cross to pick out Cahill, who made no mistake in nodding into the back of the net.

But while they were now firmly on control of the tie, Australia showed no signs of letting up after the break and Rogic added a fourth eight minutes into the second half, pouncing on Cahill's deflected shot and gliding away from a challenge before clipping his shot past Shafi.

And in the 70th minute, the rout was complete as Luongo got in on the act, ghosting in at the back post to meet Chris Ikonomidis' cross with a simple finish.

Jordan did manage to score right at the end courtesy of Deeb's fine effort, as he skipped inside Bailey Wright before curling an effort into the top corner but it was little more than a consolation, as results later on Tuesday sealed their fate.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
27th. May 2016, 19.45			Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England									46595	
England..2 v. Australia..1													
half time, England..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Fraser Forster				87	1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Nathaniel Clyne					6	DF	Joshua Risdon				74
5	DF	Chris Smalling (c)				73	5	MF	Mark Milligan				
6	DF	John Stones					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
3	DF	Ryan Bertrand					14	DF	Bradley Smith				
7	MF	Jack Wilshere				45	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				
4	MF	Jordan Henderson					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				58
8	MF	Daniel Drinkwater					13	MF	Aaron Mooy		38		84
11	MF	Adam Lallana				45*	23	MF	Tomas Rogic				73
9	FW	Marcus Rashford	3			63	24	FW	Jamie Maclaren				58*
10	MF	Raheem Sterling				76	10	MF	Robbie Kruse				84*
SUBSTITUTES													
12	DF	Kyle Walker					2	DF	Aziz Behich				
13	GK	Tom Heaton				87	3	MF	Bradden Inman				
14	MF	James Milner				45	7	MF	Stefan Mauk				
15	MF	Eric Dier	75(og)			73	9	FW	Tomi Juric				73
17	MF	Andros Townsend				76	11	MF	Christopher Ikonomidis				58
18	FW	Harry Kane					12	GK	Mark Birighitti				
19	FW	Wayne Rooney	55			45*	17	MF	Matthew McKay				58*
20	MF	Dele Alli					18	GK	Adam Federici				
21	DF	Danny Rose					19	DF	Craig Goodwin				84*
22	MF	Ross Barkley				63	20	DF	Milos Degenek				74
23	GK	Joe Hart					22	DF	Alexander Wilkinson				
							25	MF	Jackson Irvine				84
Team Coach		Roy Hodgson					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Danny Makkelie (Netherlands)											
Assistant Referee 1		Bas van Dongen (Netherlands)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hessel Steegstra (Netherlands)											

match report from the FFA

The Caltex Socceroos lost 2-1 to England on Friday night (Saturday morning Australian time) in a valuable test ahead of their final phase of World Cup qualifying later this year. Goals to Manchester United duo Marcus Rashford and Wayne Rooney gave the hosts a 2-0 lead. But an Eric Dier own goal gave Australia some late hope. After going down to a second minute goal by rising star Rashford - the Manchester United striker clinically finishing from close range after a deflection fell kindly - the Australians calmly worked their way back into the contest. With Tom Rogic a constant outlet at the tip of a midfield diamond, the Socceroos created some half chances and dominated possession for the remainder of the half. Robbie Kruse and Rogic had long-range shots on goal as Australia's possession play took the large crowd in Sunderland out of the equation. England struggled to gain a foothold on the game but did look dangerous going forward with Raheem Sterling and the excellent Rashford their two main outlets.

Just on half time Aussie keeper Mat Ryan was at his best to keep out a second after a rasping drive from the edge of the box by former Sunderland player Jordan Henderson was tipped over.

At half time the hosts lead 1-0 in a game that Australia had mostly dominated but failed to convert possession into goals.

Wayne Rooney came on in the second half to reprise his appearance as a sub when the teams last met in 2003.

The Socceroos pressed early in the second 45 with Rogic fashioning another effort, his long-range effort sailing over the bar.

But inevitably with Australia pushing forward the visitors were caught out by England's speedy counter attack. And it was Rooney who punished them.

Sterling was set free on the left after Australia lost possession in the middle of the park and the City man squared it to United's captain who smashed home England's second on 55 minutes.

A double substitution was made straight after with Chris Ikomomidis and Matt McKay coming on for Jamie Maclaren and Massimo Luongo.

With the game really opening up England Nathaniel Clyne could have made it three - he powered a shot wide of Ryan's goal.

Australia opened up England's defence with Mooy's neat ball into Kruse's feet enabling him to gain a sight of goal but Fraser Forster kept it out in the Three Lions goal.

Shortly after Millner's low effort fizzed past Australia's post with the English looking to kill off the game.

Tomi Juric and Milos Degenek were substitutions for the final 20 minutes as Australia pressed on.

match report from the BBC

Marcus Rashford made history by becoming the youngest player to score on his England debut as they beat Australia in a friendly at The Stadium Of Light.

Manchester United's Rashford - at 18 years and 208 days - beat the previous record set by Tommy Lawton in 1938 when he volleyed in after only 138 seconds.

He was able to press his claims for inclusion in England's Euro 2016 squad when it is confirmed on Tuesday with an exciting display, especially with Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge not even able to make the substitutes' bench because of a calf injury.

Wayne Rooney, on as a half-time substitute, drilled home his 52nd England goal from Raheem Sterling's pass in the 55th minute before Eric Dier gave Australia hope with 15 minutes left by heading into his own net at the near post from Alex Wilkinson's cross.

From the moment he came out for England's warm-up, Rashford looked perfectly at home on the international stage - and surely now manager Roy Hodgson will take him to Euro 2016.

Rashford was a threat for the entire 63 minutes he was on the pitch. There were moments when his inexperience showed, such as when his control let him down after being played in by Sterling in the first half - but this is a young man on a mission.

He demonstrated pace, control and a nerveless approach and even when he stumbled on another chance in the second half, he recovered his poise quickly to send a cross flashing into the six-yard box with his England colleagues just unable to get a touch.

Rashford departed to a deserved standing ovation. Now it seems certain he will be packing his bags and his passport for France.

Rooney's beaming smile gave the seal of approval to the young pretender Rashford when he volleyed home - but England's captain showed he is not ready to give away to the younger generation just yet with a vibrant second-half display.

The 30-year-old has never been under greater pressure for his England place with the emergence of Tottenham's Harry Kane and Leicester City's Jamie Vardy, whose goals helped make them Premier League champions.

He looked fresh and fit in his 45 minutes on the pitch, rifling a fine finish high past Matthew Ryan and also looking to create chances for his team-mates. Rooney will start England's Euro 2016 opener against Russia in Marseille on Saturday, 11 June.

Dier's own goal was symptomatic of England's back line. They still look less than convincing in defence, even against a side as average as this Australia.

Dier, a defensive midfielder, was brought on in a centre-back role and had only been on the pitch for a couple of minutes when he dived, unchallenged, at the near post and headed a low cross under Fraser Forster.

Manager Hodgson has time to work on his first-choice line-up before the opening game of Euro 2016 but he will be hoping Gary Cahill shakes off a hip injury because central defence is already one area of the team where England look vulnerable.

Australia got at England early on but never had the quality to pose a serious threat where others will at the sharp end of Euro 2016.

Sturridge has suffered the misery of another injury setback, this time a calf problem that restricted him to a watching brief while Rashford claimed the headlines.

Liverpool's striker is a rare talent, as proved by his wonderful goal - a masterpiece of technique with the outside of his left foot - in the Europa League final defeat by Sevilla in Basel.

The problem is, however, an obvious one. Sturridge's fitness cannot be counted on and means Hodgson has only days to decide whether to take the gamble of putting him on the plane to France - especially as Rashford is providing him with an exciting new alternative.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather		Temperature		Attendance		
4th. June 2016, 20.00			ANZ Stadium, Homebush Bay, Sydney, South Wales (Sydney Olympic Stadium)				New	Showers, heavy pitch		10C		38682	
Australia..1 v. Greece..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. Greece..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Orestis Karnezis				15
2	DF	Jason Geria					8	DF	Marios Oikonomou				
6	DF	Milos Degenek					15	DF	Vasilis Torosidis (c)				
14	DF	Bradley Smith				82	19	DF	Sokratis Papastathopoulos		87		
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					2	MF	Giannis Maniatis				
5	MF	Mark Milligan				83	7	MF	Giannis Gianniotas				74
13	MF	Aaron Mooy				61	10	MF	Lazaros Christodouloupoulos				46
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)					11	MF	Konstantinos Stafylidis				
9	FW	Apostolos Giannou				72	22	MF	Andreas Samaris				56
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				60	9	FW	Apostolos Vellios				90+2
16	FW	Nathan Burns				72*	16	FW	Dimitrios Diamantakos				46*
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				82	3	DF	Giorgos Tzavellas				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				72	4	DF	Michalis Boukouvalas				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie	90+3			60	5	DF	Vangelis Moras				
11	MF	Christopher Ikonomidis				72*	6	MF	Alexandros Tziolis				
12	GK	Mark Birighitti					12	GK	Stefanos Kapino				15
17	DF	Joshua Risdon					14	FW	Anastasios Bakasetas				46*
18	GK	Adam Federici					17	MF	Panagiotis Tachtsidis				56
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					18	MF	Petros Mantalos				
23	MF	Tomas Rogic				61	20	DF	José Holebas				46
24	FW	Jamie Maclaren					21	FW	Christos Aravidis				74
25	MF	Jackson Irvine				83	23	FW	Athanasios Papazoglou				90+2
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Michael Skibbe				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Jumpei Iida (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Shinji Ochi (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Simon Bennett (England)											

match report from the FFA

Mathew Leckie's winner with almost the last kick of the game helped the Caltex Socceroos to a 1-0 over Greece at a wet ANZ Stadium on Saturday night. Just as it appeared like the match was destined for a 0-0 draw, Leckie cut inside from the left and blasted a powerful shot into the bottom corner to snatch victory in front of almost 40,000 fans. As they did against England seven days ago, the Socceroos dominated possession and chances but this time got the reward their play deserved. The winning goal had been coming after defender Trent Sainsbury hit the post with nine minutes left, while substitute Tim Cahill thought he'd headed home the winner in the final minute, only for the assistant to rule Alex Gersbach's corner had floated out of play. But it mattered little as Leckie provided a moment of magic right at the death to take the win.

Coach Ange Postecoglou handed a debut to Jason Geria, who was solid at right-back, while Gersbach also got his first cap as an 82nd minute substitute.

Milos Degenek made his first start in the green and gold and was immense in the heart of defence alongside Sainsbury, while it was Greece-born Apostolos Giannou who led the line. But it was the visitors who carved out the opening chance inside three minutes with Apostolos Vellios unable to keep his header down. With Aaron Mooy seeing plenty of the ball, the Caltex Socceroos dominated possession but the bumpy surface made it hard to play fluently through Greece's two banks of four. Skipper Mile Jedinak and Mark Milligan had long-range efforts as the home side took control but Greece were always looking to hit on the counter through the dangerous Vellios and Vassileios Torosidis. Nathan Burns had Australia's best chance of the first half on 26 minutes when he was slipped through by Robbie Kruse only to scuff his effort from just inside the box.

Greece's substitute keeper Stefanos Kapino – forced on early for the injured Orestis Karnezis – then produced two acrobatic saves just before the break. First he prevented what would have been an embarrassing own goal by defender Marios Oikonomou before parrying Milligan's powerful shot in stoppage time to send the teams to the sheds at 0-0. The Socceroos continued to press early in the second half with Jedinak blazing a free-kick over the bar while Giannou put a gilt-edged chance wide, only to have his blushes spared saved by the offside flag. On the hour Postecoglou made a double substitution, bringing on Leckie and Tom Rogic for Robbie Kruse and Aaron Mooy.

And the home side stayed on the front foot, almost edging in front through Milligan, his clever flick from Burns' corner going straight into the arms of Kapino. With just under 20 minutes left Cahill and Chris Ikonomidis were introduced as the Socceroos went on search of a winner. The visitors started to tire visibly and were almost punished nine minutes from the end as Sainsbury found a metre of space in the box to get in a low shot which hit the post and bounced away. Cahill's disallowed goal followed soon after and just as it looked like that would be it, Leckie made himself the hero. The sides now head to Melbourne for the second game of the series on Tuesday night.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
7th. June 2016, 20.00			Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria (Docklands Stadium)				Fine (Roof closed)					33622	
Australia..1 v. Greece..2													
half time, Australia..0 v. Greece..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Adam Federici					12	GK	Stefanos Kapino				
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach		44		65	3	DF	Giorgos Tzavellas				
8	DF	Bailey Wright					11	DF	Konstantinos Stafylidis				
19	DF	Ryan McGowan				66	15	DF	Vasilis Torosidis (c)				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury	57				19	DF	Sokratis Papastathopoulos		34		
5	MF	Mark Milligan					2	MF	Giannis Maniatis	23	63		68
13	MF	Aaron Mooy		60		71	18	MF	Petros Mantalos	8			
23	MF	Tomas Rogic		86			20	MF	José Holebas				64
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)					22	MF	Andreas Samaris				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie		28		76	9	FW	Apostolos Vellios				79
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				80	14	FW	Anastasios Bakasetas				
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					4	DF	Michalis Boukouvalas				
2	DF	Jason Geria					5	DF	Vangelis Moras				
6	DF	Milos Degenek				66	6	MF	Alexandros Tziolis				68
9	FW	Apostolos Giannou				71	7	MF	Giannis Gianniotas				
11	MF	Christopher Ikonomidis				76	8	DF	Marios Oikonomou				
12	GK	Mark Birighitti					10	MF	Lazaros Christodouloupoulos				64
14	DF	Bradley Smith				65	13	GK	Vasilios Barkas				
16	FW	Nathan Burns				80	16	FW	Dimitrios Diamantakos				
17	DF	Joshua Risdon					17	MF	Panagiotis Tachtsidis				
24	FW	Jamie Maclaren					21	FW	Christos Aravidis				
25	MF	Jackson Irvine					23	FW	Athanasios Papazoglou				79
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Michael Skibbe				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Robert Madley (England)											
Assistant Referee 1		Simon Bennett (England)											
Assistant Referee 2		Shinji Ochi (Japan)											

match report from the FFA

The Caltex Socceroos were beaten 2-1 by an impressive Greece with the visitors' Ioannis Maniatis smashing an absolute stunner at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium on Tuesday night.

After winning the first of the two-match Dodoni Series 1-0 in Sydney, the Australians struggled to back up that eye-catching performance.

A revitalised Greece had strikes to Petros Mantalos and Maniatis to thank for the win while Trent Sainsbury headed home the Socceroos' reply just on the hour.

Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou used the game to give valuable game time to new faces and rotate his squad

And with Postecoglou stressing the need to improve over the coming two years, this friendly provided a timely reminder of the challenges ahead against a polished European opponent.

Teenage Alex Gersbach started on the left of defence, Ryan McGowan started on the right in front of Adam Federici in goal.

Mathew Leckie was handed a start alongside central striker Tim Cahill who captained the side in place of Mile Jedinak. Mark Milligan replaced the Crystal Palace skipper in the centre of midfield.

But it was the Greeks who got off to a perfect start.

On seven minutes, Milligan was hustled off the ball near the centre circle, Andreas Samaris stole the ball, burst through, laid off to Mantalos who smashed the ball past Federici.

And it got even better for Ethniki Omada with Maniatis scoring an audacious stunner 13 minutes later.

With Federici well off his line, Maniatis sensed his opportunity from just inside his half to make it 2-0, pinging a perfect drive which beat the retreating Federici and bounced into the empty goal.

And it could've got worse for Australia just before half time.

Gersbach was lucky he only saw yellow after a late tackle on goal-scorer Mantalos sent the AEK man sprawling to the deck.

Trent Sainsbury went close early in the second half but Greece went even closer with Roma's Vassileos Torosidis volleying a rocket against the Aussie post from a corner.

But it was Sainsbury who got the Socceroos back in it just on the hour, nodding home after a scramble in the box from a corner.

2-1 with half an hour to play and both sides rung the changes as Australia played two upfront with Apo Giannou partnering Cahill. Australia didn't stop running with Cahill leading from the front but as the game lost some of its shape with numerous substitutions, it wasn't to be as Michael Skibbe's side registered a morale-boosting win 2-1 in front of 33,622 fans.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
1st. September 2016, 18.30			Perth Rectangular Stadium, Perth, Western Australia (nib Stadium)				Sunny			18C		18923	
Australia..2 v. Iraq..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. Iraq..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					20	GK	Mohammed Hameed Farhan				
5	MF	Mark Milligan					2	DF	Ahmad Ibrahim Khalaf				
14	DF	Bradley Smith		68			6	DF	Ali Adnan Kadim Nassir				60
2	DF	Milos Degenek					17	DF	Al-Tameemi				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					15	DF	Alaa Ali Mhawi				
23	MF	Tomas Rogic					14	DF	Dhurgham Ismail Dawoud				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy		10			21	MF	Al-Quraisha				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo	58			78	11	MF	Saad Abdul-Amir Luaibi				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)					9	MF	Al-Zirjawi (c)				64
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				85	22	MF	Ali Husni Faisal				
9	FW	Tomi Juric	64			65	7	FW	Ahmed Yaseen Ghani		52		
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach					8	DF	Mohannad Abdul-Raheem Karrar				
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill					19	MF	Mahdi Kamel Sheltagh				
10	MF	Robbie Kruse				65	3	DF	Ali Lateef Mohammed				
11	MF	Christopher Oikonomidis					12	GK	Mohammed Gassid Kadhim				
17	FW	Apostolos Giannou				85	1	GK	Al-Jaberi				
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					18	FW	Jalal Hassan Hachem				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					4	DF	Mohammed Jabbar Shokan				
18	GK	Adam Federici					23	FW	Samal Saeed Mujbel Al Mamoori				
16	FW	Nathan Burns					10	FW	Jassim Mohammed				
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					16	DF	Alaa Abdul-Zahra Khashen				80
22	MF	Jackson Irvine				78	13	MF	Al-Azzawi				
8	DF	Joshua Risdon					5	MF	Ali Faez Atiyah				64
Team Coach							Team Coach						
Ange Postecoglou							Radhi Shenaishil Swadi						
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Joel Freeme							Basil Gorges Hanna						
Referee													
Alireza Faghani (Islamic Republic of Iran)													
Assistant Referee 1													
Reza Sokhandan (Islamic Republic of Iran)													
Assistant Referee 2													
Mohammad Reza Mansouri (Islamic Republic of Iran)													

Jalal Hassan Hachem is also shown as Jalal Hassan Hachim. Mohammed Gassid Kadhim Al-Jaberi is also shown as Mohammed Kassid. Ahmad Ibrahim Khalaf is also shown as Ahmed Ibrahim. Saad Natiq Naji is also shown as Saad Natiq Naji Ala'a Abdul Zahra. Dhurgham Ismail Dawoud Al-Quraishi is also shown as Durgham Ismael. Yaser Safa Qasim Al-Qadefaje is also shown as Yaser Kasim. Ahmed Yaseen Ghani is also shown as Ahmed Yasin. Ali Husni Faisal is also shown as Ali Hosni and Ali Hisny Faisal. Mahdi Kamel Sheltagh is also shown as Mahdi Kamil Shiltagh. Saad Abdul-Amir Al-Zirjawi is also shown as Saad Abdulameer. Mohammed Jabbar Shokan is also shown as Mohammed Shawkan Al-Mayyah. Justin Joseph Meram (who was born in the USA) has an Iraqi passport in the name of Justin Hikmat Azeez. Mohannad Abdul-Raheem Karrar is reported to have changed his name in April 2011 from Mohanad Abdul-Rahman Kazar.

match report from the FFA

A dominant Caltex Socceroos saw off Iraq 2-0 in their opening group game of the final phase of World Cup qualification in the WA capital on Thursday night. QPR midfielder Massimo Luongo, on the left of a front three, slotted home the decisive opener just before the hour mark courtesy of a Tomi Juric assist. And seven minutes later Juric of FC Luzern got his reward for a strong display by poking home a second. On a cool, clear Thursday night on a perfect pitch in front of 18,923 fans at Perth's Rectangular Stadium, the pattern of the game was set very early.

Australia on the front foot, pressing across the park and creating chances galore. Iraq simply trying to hold on and contain the rampant Australians and take their chances when they arose. Australia pummelled Iraq in the opening 35 minutes.

In fact, Australia could've been one up inside the opening 10 seconds after Juric shot forced Mohammed Hameed into a stop before the rebound was headed back into his hands.

Juric and Bournemouth's Brad Smith had sighters on goal and a mazy run from Luongo required a last-ditch tackle in the box as the hosts completely dominated.

Iraq's first real chance, however, was snuffed out brilliantly by centre half Mark Milligan who denied Ali Abbas with a block after the former Sydney FC favourite burst into the box.

Australia hit back with Smith's pinpoint cross finding Leckie's head. He craned his head to direct a looping effort onto the post and it spilt harmlessly wide.

The remainder of the first half saw the Australians continue to dominate possession and force Iraq back. But that elusive goal didn't come. In fact, Iraq may've stolen a lead had Ahmed Yaseen Gheni's curling shot not fizzed a metre wide of Mat Ryan's goal.

The Iraqis ended the half with some good possession sensing they'd weathered the Socceroo storm. But Australia were just warming up.

No changes at the break for Australia as they continued to press against a well-organised Iraqi rearguard. And soon the pressure finally told.

After Mooy smashed a cracking shot against the bar, and Juric missed a sitter, on 58 minutes the breakthrough came.

Juric was set free down the right, his low cross across the goal was guided home by the on-running Luongo.

Juric bullocked his way through minutes later but was unable to make it 2-0 but from the resulting corner, he poked home from in front after Milligan cleverly flicked the ball on.

With the result seemingly in the bag at 2-0, Australia turned the screws as the Iraqis were forced to come out of their shell. The Socceroos cleverly kept the ball and forced the visitors to work even harder to get back into it. But they couldn't find a way through and Australia earned three deserved points on the Road to Russia.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
6th. September 2016, 19.30			Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates				Hot and humid			39C		40893	
United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Khalid Eisa Mohamed Bilal Saeed					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
3	DF	Walid Abbas Murad Yousuf Al-Bloushi (c)					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
6	DF	Al Amim Mohannad Salem Ghazy Al-Enazi					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
19	DF	Mohamed Ismail Ahmed Ismail					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
23	DF	Mohamed Ahmed Ali Gharib Juma Amer Abdul Rahman Abdullah Hussein Al-Hamadi		63		24	5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
5	MF	Omar Abdul Rahman Ahmed Al-Raaki Al-Amoodi				77	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
10	MF	Khamis Esmail Khamis Zayed					14	MF	Bradley Smith				
13	MF	Ismaeel Salem Ismaeel Saeed Al Hammadi					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
15	MF	Ali Ahmed Mabkhout Mohsen Omaran Alfajeri					9	FW	Tomi Juric				70
7	FW	Ahmed Khalil Sebait Mubarak Al-Junaibi					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				89
11	FW					62	23	FW	Tomas Rogic		48		63
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Ali Khaseif Humad Khaseif Housani Salem Saleh Mussallam Salem Al-Rejaibi				77	2	MF	Milos Degenek				
2	FW						3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
4	MF	Habib Fardan Abdulla Hamdan Ismail Mohammed Al Kamali					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill	75			70
8	DF	Abdulaziz Husain Haikal Mubarak Al-Balooshi				24	8	DF	Joshua Risdon				
9	DF	Mohammed Fayez Subait Khalifa Al-Alawi					11	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				
14	DF						12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
16	MF	Mohamed Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Raqi Al-Almoodi				62	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak				
17	MF	Khaled Jalal Mohamed Yousef Ibrahim Al-Marzouqi					16	MF	Nathan Burns				89
18	DF	Mohammed Fawzi Jawhar Faraj Abdullah Al-Jawhar					17	FW	Apostolos Giannou				
20	FW	Mohamed Salman Abdulla Salman Al-Akbari					18	GK	Adam Federici				
21	MF	Khaled Abdurraheem Mohamed Bawazir					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				63
22	GK	Ahmed Mahmoud Mohammed Ashori					22	FW	Jackson Irvine				
Team Coach		Mahdi Ali Hassan Redha					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Metref Ali Metref					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Mohd Amirul Izwan bin Yaacob (Malaysia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Mohd Yusri bin Mohamad (Malaysia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohd Mu'azi bin Zainal Abidin (Malaysia)											

Al Anim Mohannad Salem Ghazy Al-Enazi is also shown as Mohanad Salem and Mohanad Salem Marzouq.
 Mohamed Ismail Ahmed Ismail is also shown as Ismail Ahmed and Ismail Ahmed Ismail.
 Khamis Esmail Khamis Zayed is also shown as Khamis Esmaeel.
 Ismail Salem Al Hammadi is also shown as Ismail Al Hammad and Ismail Al Hammadi.
 Mohamed Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Raqi Al-Almoudi is also shown as Mohamed Abdulrahman and Mohamed Alraqi.
 Mohamed Salman Abdulla Salman Al-Akbari is also shown as Mohamed Alakbari.
 Khalid Abdurraheem Bawazir is also shown as Khaled Abdurrahman Ba Wazir.

match report from the AFC

Socceroos veteran Tim Cahill came off the bench to score the only goal of the game as Australia notched up a second win in a row at their start of their campaign to qualify for Russia 2018 with a 1-0 victory over the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday.

The former Everton and New York Red Bulls forward had only been on the field four minutes having replaced Tomi Juric before he slotted Brad Smith's cross from the left beyond UAE goalkeeper Khalid Eisa at the far post to give Australia the lead 15 minutes from time.

Cahill's goal ensured Ange Postecoglou's side picked up six points out of six from their first two games in Group B of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup and the reigning AFC Asian Cup champions now lead the standings alongside Saudi Arabia, who have also had a perfect start to the campaign.

"The match was difficult and we already knew that because playing away is very difficult," said Postecoglou. "We were better in the second half and overcame the weather conditions to score the winning goal and get the three points. We forced our opponents to play with the way that we wanted and we nearly eliminated their strengths. Tim Cahill was great today as I knew that he would make the difference and he scored the winning goal even though he wasn't physically ready during the last training camp. We have a strong character and we are capable with this group of players to go far in the qualifiers."

The win was well deserved for an Australian side that worked hard despite the demanding conditions, with temperatures so high referee Malaysian referee Mohd Aimrul allowed drinks breaks midway through each period of the game.

Massimo Luongo, scorer of Australia's opening goal in their win over Iraq on Thursday, started on the bench for the Socceroos as Postecoglou made three chances to the side that won 2-0 against the former Asian champions, with Milo Degenek and Mile Jedinak also sidelined as the Socceroos drafted in Matthew Spiranovic, Ryan McGowan and Robbie Kruse.

The UAE, meanwhile, made just one change to the side that defeated Japan 2-1, with Waleed Abbas coming into the line-up for Mohamed Fayeze.

The home side exerted pressure throughout the opening 15 minutes, with Ismail Al Hammadi forcing Mathew Ryan to push the ball over the bar for Mahdi Ali's side, but it was the Socceroos who went closest to opening the scoring in the first 45 minutes.

With 17 minutes on the clock Spiranovic saw his header tipped over the goal by Eisa after Aaron Mooy's corner, while two minutes later Kruse should have done better when he was put in on goal by Juric, only for Eisa to drop to his right to save.

Mooy forced Eisa into further action when his in-swinging corner almost caught the goalkeeper out, with the Al Ain man pushing the ball belatedly over the bar, before - in the dying moments of the half - Smith had to be alert to keep Al Hammadi at bay after Omar Abdulrahman's through ball split the Australian defence.

Tom Rogic went closer still for Australia on the stroke of half-time when he skipped through the UAE defence before hitting a left-foot shot that Eisa was equal to once again.

Mooy looked set to give Australia the lead in the 60th minute only to see his sliced shot from 15 yards out come back off the woodwork, while at the other end Ali Mabkhout should have done better when he latched on to Al Hammadi's cross from the left, only to sky his effort woefully off target.

With both sides tiring, the game looked increasingly likely to end in stalemate but, as he has done so often, Cahill came off the bench to claim the win for the Socceroos with a typically assured finish from close range after an inch-perfect delivery from the left by Smith.

"I want to thank the players for all that they gave tonight and we had more chances than our opponents throughout the match, but we failed to take advantage and score," said Ali. "We have lost one match and we still have a chance for a good comeback in the next matches. We played in difficult conditions as the heat and humidity affected the players in addition to the long trip from Japan. I want to thank the fans who attended the match and we were hoping that we could get a positive result, but I hope that we can make them happier in the next matches."

match report from the FFA

Tim Cahill came off the bench to score the winner for a dominant Caltex Socceroos who registered a precious 1-0 win over UAE in steamy Abu Dhabi on Wednesday morning (AEST).

The Socceroos have now made a perfect start to Group B, with two wins from two in the final phase of World Cup qualification.

Australia adapted their high-energy game to the 30 degrees plus conditions, opting for a more energy-efficient possession-based game that largely blunted a direct UAE.

At the Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium, Australia began somewhat nervously in possession and weathered an early storm orchestrated by sublime playmaker Omar Abdulrahman to then dominate the first half and create out a few good chances.

But with 20 minutes to go, with his first touch, Tim Cahill popped up free in the box to direct Brad Smith's pin-point cross home with his right foot to break Emirates' hearts.

In front of a big and boisterous crowd on a slick surface, the game got off to a high-tempo start.

But as the half wore on, the Socceroos adapted to the heat, adapting a less frenetic pace, keeping the ball, out-passing and out-possessing the hosts.

UAE opted to go more direct with playmaker Omar Abdulrahman pinging some exquisite balls over the top which caused Australia's defence some problems. Al-Hamady in particular the option up front.

But the bulk of the best chances in the first half fell to the Aussies.

Spiranovic got in a free header on target from a Mooy corner, Rogic almost scored just before the break but his shot was parried while Robbie Kruse had the best chance.

Juric put through the former Melbourne Victory man with a pin-point diagonal ball but his right-footed shot was stopped by the arm of Khalid Eisa in the UAE goal.

UAE came out firing in the second half making the most of their power strikers and direct play.

The game opened up with chances at both ends - Ali Mabkhout the best for UAE after Mooy sliced a loose ball onto the bar.

But the turning point came when Cahill came on for Tomi Juric with about 20 minutes to go.

With his first touch, Cahill was left unmarked in the box and Brad Smith's excellent cross was guided home by the Melbourne City striker's right boot.

UAE ramped up the intensity in the latter stages as the Green and Gold were pushed back by Mahdi Ali's desperate men.

And despite a few half chances, UAE simply weren't good enough to trouble the Australian defence as the Socceroos held on for a precious three points on the road.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
6th. October 2016, 20.45			King Abdullah Sports City, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia			Hot and humid			38C		51616		
Saudi Arabia..2 v. Australia..2													
half time, Saudi Arabia..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Yasser Abdullah Al-Mosailem					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Mansoor Ateeq Al-Harbi					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
3	DF	Osama Abdulrezag Hawsawi (c)		45+2			20	DF	Trent Sainsbury	45			
5	DF	Omar Ibrahim Omar Othman Hawsawi				70	5	MF	Mark Milligan				
12	DF	Hassan Muath Fallatah					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
7	MF	Salman Mohammed Al-Faraj					14	MF	Bradley Smith				
8	MF	Yahya Sulaiman Ali Al-Shehri				67	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)		23		
10	MF	Nawaf Shaker Al-Abed					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				61
11	MF	Abdulmalek Abdullah Al-Khaibri					9	FW	Tomi Juric	71			85
17	MF	Taiseer Jaber Al-Jassam	5				10	FW	Robbie Kruse				
9	FW	Naif Ahmad Hazazi				54	23	FW	Tomas Rogic				85*
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Waleed Abdullah Ali					2	MF	Craig Goodwin				
4	DF	Mohammed Abdulhakem Al-Fatil					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
6	MF	Abdulaziz Jebreen Al-Jebreen					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				85
13	DF	Mohammed Al-Burayk					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
14	DF	Hassan Kadesh					11	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				
15	FW	Nasser Ali Al-Shamrani	79			54	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
16	MF	Housain Al-Mogahwi					16	FW	James Jeggo				
18	MF	Salman Al-Moasher					17	FW	Apostolos Giannou				
19	FW	Fahad Mosaed Al-Muwallad Al-Harbi				67	18	GK	Adam Federici				
20	MF	Abdulmajeed Abdullah Al-Ruwaili					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
21	GK	Mohammed Al-Owais					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				61
23	DF	Motaz Ali Hassan Hawsawi				70	22	FW	Jackson Irvine				85*
Team Coach		Lambertus Marwijk					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Zaki Ibrahim Al-Saleh					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jakhongir Saidov (Uzbekistan)											

Mansoor Ateeq Al-Harbi is also shown as Mansour Al-Harbi and Mansour Althaqfi Al Harbi. Yahya Sulaiman Ali Al-Shehri is also shown as Yahia Al-Shehri. Nawaf Shaker Al-Abed is also shown as Nawaf Al-Abid. Taiseer Jaber Al-Jassam is also shown as Taisir Al-Jassim and Al-Jassem. Mohammed Al-Breik is also shown as Mohammed Al-Burayk. Housain Al-Mogahwi is also shown as Hussain Al-Mogahwi. Salman Al-Moasher is also shown as Salman Muwashar.

match report from the AFC

Former AFC Player of the Year Nassir Al Shamrani came off the bench to maintain Saudi Arabia's unbeaten start to the final phase of qualifying for the 2018 FIFA World Cup finals when his goal 11 minutes from time earned Bert van Marwijk's side a 2-2 draw with Australia on Thursday evening.

Al Shamrani scored from close range to level the scores after Tomi Juric had put Australia in front for the first time in the 71st minute of an enthralling encounter at the King Abdullah Sports City. Taisir Al Jassem gave Saudi Arabia the lead after just five minutes only for Trent Sainsbury to equalise for Australia on the stroke of halftime.

"It was an exciting game as I expected," said van Marwijk. "In the first 20 minutes we played the way that we wanted to play but, in the next minutes, we didn't have a good performance. We played with high pressure and we scored beautiful goals, but you can't play with the same performance for 90 minutes."

"The two goals of Australia came from individual mistakes but I congratulate the players for their comeback. It was hard to build attacks from the back and that is why we used long balls. The result is positive for us and I'm satisfied with it."

Both teams went into the game with perfect records following their opening two qualifiers and it was Saudi Arabia who were quickest out of the blocks.

Within five minutes the home side took the lead when Nawaf Al Abed's clever through ball released Yahya Al Sheri, whose cut back found Al Jassem unmarked 12 yards from goal and the Al Ahli man made no mistake with his right foot strike.

Van Marwijk's side continued to dominate the opening exchanges but, as the half wore on the Socceroos established a foot hold in the game.

With two minutes remaining in the half Brad Smith struck the outside of the post after a powerful, surging run towards the Saudi penalty area area and, on the stroke of halftime, the Australians levelled as Sainsbury rose to head in Aaron Mooy's swinging corner.

The outcome remained in the balance throughout the second half, with Mathew Spiranovic twice blocking Al Abed's attempts before Juric gave the Australians the lead 19 minutes from the end.

Massimo Luongo, a second half substitute for Mathew Leckie, released Robbie Kruse down the right side and the Bayer Leverkusen man played an angled ball towards the far post that left the Saudi defence flat footed before Juric pushed his shot over the line.

Australia's lead was only to last eight minutes, however, as the Saudis struck back. The Green Falcons were pressing hard for the equaliser and, in the 79th minute, Al Shamrani levelled the scores when he redirected Hassan Fallatah's shot from outside the area beyond Mat Ryan in the Australia goal. Ryan was called into action just two minutes later to deny Fahad Al Muwallad with a fine low save as the Saudis continued to apply pressure while Australia pushed at the other end in a frantic finale, but in the end both sides were forced to settle for a share of the points. "Not getting off to an ideal start didn't help things and conceding the goal as well," said Australia coach Ange Postecoglou. "They came out of the blocks pretty quickly, but I thought we worked our way back into the game really well and got the goal we deserved just before halftime. Then we looked in control and once we got the second we really should've maintained that. We lost our composure a couple of times and they came into it as well, they had their moments with the big crowd behind them and they were giving it everything. It's a good point but I just feel we could have got more out of it."

match report from the FFA

The Caltex Socceroos have drawn 2-2 with Saudi Arabia to keep their unbeaten record in final phase of World Cup qualifying after Friday morning's (AEDT) electric clash in front of over 60,000 fans in Jeddah.

After Saudi Arabia took an early advantage it was Socceroo defender Trent Sainsbury who equalised on the stroke of half time with a glancing header from a corner.

And with 20 minutes left, Tomi Juric guided home a low cross at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah to make it 2-1.

But the Saudis hit back with ten minutes left to ensure a nerve wracking final few minutes with keeper Mat Ryan pulling off a sensational stop to keep the hosts out.

Australia now has seven points from three games heading into Tuesday's clash with Japan in Melbourne.

The Saudis' game plan worked a treat early.

They pressed high, asked the questions of Australia and with a huge crowd behind them got their reward early.

The dangerous Nawaf Al Abed with the deft touch to play a teammate in and the cut back was met by the on-rushing Taisir Al-Jassim who guided it home low past Mat Ryan.

But as it often transpires, Australia weathered the storm and worked their way back into the contest.

Whilst not at their regal best, the Caltex Socceroos pushed the Saudis back with Celtic's Tom Rogic a constant threat down the middle.

It was Rogic who set up central striker Juric who put the ball into the net but it was adjudged offside.

Just before half time Brad Smith's surging run and shot was the best chance for the Australians. However, two minutes later Aaron Mooy directed a perfect corner onto the head of Sainsbury who guided it home to send the teams into the break on level terms.

Matt Leckie was close to a goal attempt after a low cross from Juric was intercepted by keeper. But the crowd lifted when Nasser Al Shamrani was injected as a substitute for the Saudis.

"The Earthquake" had an immediate impact. Matt Spiranovic with blocking defence inside the box to keep the home side out as the Saudi striker's presence was felt immediately.

But it was sublime Rogic again, this time playing through Robbie Kruse down the wing and his low cross was met by Juric who guided the ball home from in front of goal.

The crowd was stunned but it was that man Al Shamrani who got the vital touch in a crowded box to help guide the ball home after Australia was opened up by a cut back from Al-Jassim.

With just over 11 minutes left it was 2-2 and game on as the crowd lifted.

And had it not been for Mat Ryan, it should've been 3-2 after the Saudis sprung the offside trap but the Valencia keeper saved brilliantly to keep Australia in the game.

Australia hit back in the final few minutes as the Saudis held on for the draw.

The Caltex Socceroos now head to Melbourne for another group blockbuster, this time at home to Japan.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
11th. October 2016, 20.00			Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria (Docklands Stadium)				Cold			12C		48460	
Australia..1 v. Japan..1													
half time, Australia..0 v. Japan..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					12	GK	Nishikawa Shusaku				
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					6	DF	Morishige Masato				
19	DF	Ryan McGowan		40			20	DF	Makino Tomoaki		87		
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					21	DF	Gotoku Sakai				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy				82	22	DF	Maya Yoshida				
14	MF	Bradley Smith					4	MF	Keisuke Honda				84
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	52(pk)				10	MF	Shinji Kagawa				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo		45+2			16	MF	Hotaru Yamaguchi				
9	FW	Tomi Juric				70	17	MF	Makoto Hasebe (c)				
17	FW	Apostolos Giannou				57	8	FW	Genki Haraguchi	5			90+1
23	FW	Tomas Rogic					14	FW	Yu Kobayashi				82
SUBSTITUTES													
2	MF	Craig Goodwin					1	GK	Eiji Kawashima				
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach					2	DF	Maruyama Yuichi				90+1
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				70	3	DF	Kosuke Ota				
5	MF	Mark Milligan					5	DF	Ueda Naomichi				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				82	7	MF	Kashiwagi Yosuke				
8	DF	Bailey Wright					9	FW	Shinji Okazaki				
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				57	11	MF	Saito Manabu				
11	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis					13	MF	Hiroshi Kiyotake				82
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					15	MF	Ryota Ohshima				
16	FW	James Jeggo					18	FW	Asano Takuma				84
18	GK	Adam Federici					19	MF	Ryota Nagaki				
22	FW	Jackson Irvine					23	GK	Higashiguchi Masaaki				
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Vahid Halilhodzic				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Naoki Tsumura				
Referee		Nawaf Shukralla (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yaser Tulefat (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Ebrahim Saleh (Bahrain)											

match report from the AFC

A second-half penalty kick from Mile Jedinak saw Australia continue their undefeated run in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 Asian Qualifiers Third Round, securing a 1-1 draw against Japan at Melbourne's Docklands Stadium on Tuesday night.

Vahid Halilhodzic's side ensured the Socceroos conceded within the first five minutes for the second consecutive Group B game as Genki Haraguchi opened the scoring for the visitors, but Jedinak's 51st minute spot-kick meant Japan return home once more having still never recorded a win against Australia in Melbourne.

"If you look at it, we were very poor in the first half and we got off to a really poor start by conceding a very soft goal and we just didn't have enough intent inside the first 45 minutes to break them down," said Australia coach Ange Postecoglou.

"They obviously sat off and worked very hard defensively, closing the spaces and we just weren't mobile enough. It was our reaction in the second half, which was pleasing, and we got the goal but overall you kind of think that we wasted 45 minutes of the game."

The Samurai Blue's early lead followed after Trent Sainsbury's wayward pass was intercepted in midfield with Keisuke Honda playing a decisive ball to Haraguchi cutting in from the left and slotting his one-on-one effort past goalkeeper Mathew Ryan.

Haraguchi was experiencing significant joy down the left side and saw another effort go wide before teeing up Honda at the edge of the area who directed his attempt at Ryan.

Australia's first opportunity followed in the 18th minute as Aaron Mooy's curling set piece found the head of Tomi Juric in the penalty area, however the striker was unable to keep his attempt on target.

A Jedinak free-kick from 25 yards then tested Japanese 'keeper Shusaku Nishikawa on the half hour mark, forcing an awkward punching save from the 30-year-old.

Shortly after the restart Australia drew level from the penalty spot thanks to Jedinak.

Haraguchi was the offender fouling Juric inside the area, allowing Jedinak to convert straight down the middle.

Juric's presence was causing issues for Japan's defence as the striker rose highest in the 62nd minute but could only direct his header into Nishikawa's hands.

With 15 minutes remaining, Japan's Yu Kobayashi forced Ryan into a smart save as the custodian dived low to his right to tip the forward's header around the upright.

Australian defender Matthew Spiranovic then came desperately close to scoring the winner for Australia three minutes from time as the centre-back nodded Massimo Luongo's cross just over the frame.

The Socceroos pressed late in injury time but were unable to find the crucial second, while a late scramble at the other end did cause a moment of panic for Australia as Postecoglou's side were relieved to eventually clear the danger.

The result sees Japan remain a point behind Australia in the early Group B standings as the two Asian heavyweights remain on track for a place at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

"My feeling after this game is not regret - maybe some frustration - we have a tactical preparation based on our physical condition and the players did a good job, especially defensively," said Japan coach Halilhodzic.

"We let the opponent have the ball because we knew that we would have the chance to score. I think we deserved two more points from this game. I will not make a comment about the opponent's goal situation but we created and could score more goals.

"The opponent's goalkeeper made two great saves. We showed a good physical dual. We were not in danger, the opponent couldn't create chances. We were good, organised and disciplined."

match report from the FFA

The Caltex Socceroos have been held to a 1-1 draw with Japan in a pulsating FIFA World Cup qualifier in front of almost 50,000 fans in Melbourne on Tuesday night.

Just like in Jeddah four days ago, Australia was hit with an early goal as Japan went in front inside five minutes through Genki Haraguchi.

But a second half penalty, converted by skipper Mile Jedinak, drew Australia level and while they probed hard for a winner, Ange Postecoglou's side had to settle for a point.

Australia remains unbeaten in the group after four matches on eight points heading into their next qualifier in Thailand next month.

In front of 48,460 fans at Docklands, Japan set up to frustrate the Aussies early, sat deep to congest the midfield and force an error to hit on the counter attack.

It worked to a tee early as they silenced the home crowd with an early goal.

A loose pass was pounced on by Shinji Kagawa and passed to Keisuke Honda who then sent Karaguchi away and he fired it in low past Mat Ryan.

The Caltex Socceroos appeared a little shell-shocked and had to work hard to try and take the sting out of Japan's early pressure.

While Australia's passing wasn't at its crisp best, Tomi Juric was looking the most dangerous and he had the home side's best early chance.

Juric rose highest to meet Aaron Mooy's whipped free-kick but he couldn't crane his header enough to keep it under the crossbar.

The visitors remained dangerous on the break with Haraguchi teeing up Honda on the edge of the box, but luckily for Australia his shot was straight into the arms of Ryan.

Three minutes later Mile Jedinak tried his luck from a free-kick 30 yards from goal, forcing keeper Shusaku Nishikawa to punch away.

No changes at the break for the Caltex Socceroos as they continued to look for a solution to break down the well-organised Japan rear-guard. And they soon got their lifeline.

Brad Smith got free down the left and his cross made its way to Juric who was bundled over by Haraguchi for a penalty.

Jedinak's spot kick was assured and sweet to draw Australia level.

Docklands was now rocking as the Caltex Socceroos wrestled back the momentum.

Soon after, Juric was involved in another tussle in the box but this time had his penalty appeal turned down, while Matthew Spiranovic couldn't get enough power on his header to beat Nishikawa.

The home side were turning to screws and with 20 minutes left Ange Postecoglou brought on Tim Cahill for Juric as they went in search for a winner.

Japan had a great chance to regain the lead 17 minutes from the end but Ryan got down low to his right to somehow keep out Yu Kobayashi's header.

Australia finished stronger and almost pinched it late when Spiranovic headed over the bar from Massimo Luongo's free-kick. But it ended a draw leaving Group B wide open.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. October 2016, 19.00			Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand				Clear			30C		36534	
Thailand..2 v. Australia..2													
half time, Thailand..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Kawin Thamsatchanan					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
3	DF	Theerathon Bunmathan (c)					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				78
5	DF	Adison Promrak				82	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
16	DF	Prathum Chutong		8			2	MF	Milos Degenek				
19	DF	Tristan Do					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
6	MF	Sarach Yooyen					14	MF	Bradley Smith				
9	MF	Siroch Chatthong				90+1	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	9(pk), 65(pk)			
17	MF	Tanaboon Kesarat					4	FW	Jamie MacLaren				58
18	MF	Chanathip Songkrasin					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				58*
21	MF	Pokklaw Anan					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				
10	FW	Teerasil Dangda	20, 57(pk)				23	FW	Tomas Rogic				
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Perapat Notechaia					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
4	MF	Kroekrit Thawikan					5	MF	Mark Milligan				58*
7	MF	Charyl Yannic Chappuis					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
8	MF	Prakit Deeprom					9	FW	Apostolos Giannou				
11	MF	Monkol Tossakrai					11	MF	Craig Goodwin				
12	MF	Adul Lahsoh					12	GK	Mark Birighitti				
13	DF	Nattapon Malapun				82	16	FW	Nathan Burns				58
14	MF	Sarawut Masuk					17	DF	Joshua Risdon				
15	DF	Pravinwat Boonyong					18	GK	Adam Federici				
20	GK	Sinthaweechai Hathairattanakool					19	FW	James Jeggo				
22	FW	Rungrath Poomchantuek				90+1	21	MF	Luke Brattan				
23	GK	Chanin Sae-ear					22	FW	Jackson Irvine		90		
Team Coach		Kiatiskul Senamuang					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Worapoj Yasadatt					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Fahad Jaber Al-Marri (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Juma Mohammed K H Al-Burshaid (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Ramzan Saeed Al-Naemi (Qatar)											

Pravinwat Boonyong is also shown as Praweenwat Boonyong.
Monkol Tossakrai is also shown as Mongkol Tossakrai and Monkol Thosakrai.
Rungrath Poomchantuek is also shown as Rungrat Phumichantu.

match report from the AFC

Two penalties from Mile Jedinak helped Australia to a 2-2 draw with Thailand at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok on Tuesday though the AFC Asian Cup holders were made to sweat against the committed hosts. The draw leaves Australia with nine points in Group B while the point marks Thailand's first after four consecutive defeats.

Jedinak put the visitors ahead with an early penalty but a goal in each half from Teerasil Dangda had Thailand ahead just before the hour only for the Socceroos captain to earn a point for his team.

"We are not satisfied but it was a tough game and credit to the Thai team, they played very well tonight," said Australia coach Ange Postecoglou.

"It was a big occasion for them and they [were up for it]. We had to work very hard to get a point from the game and I am disappointed we couldn't win. I am not surprised as we know they are a very good side and in these special circumstances, they would play with a lot of passion and they did just that. We knew they could be dangerous but fell into the trap of playing their game and had to work hard just to get the draw."

Both teams showed plenty of energy from the start. Australia almost took the lead in the first minute with Mathew Leckie sending a low shot into the arms of Kawin Thamsatchanan from the right side of the area.

After seven minutes, the visitors took the lead. A shot from Robbie Kruse was blocked and the follow-up from Tom Rogic was stopped by the hand of Prathum Chutong. Jedinak made no mistake from the spot, shooting decisively past the right-hand of the diving Kawin.

Australia continued to push forward but Thailand levelled after 20 minutes. Chanathip Songkrasin freed Tristan Do on the right side of the area and his low cross was eventually hooked home by Teerasil to send the Rajamangala crowd wild with delight.

Shortly after a powerful shot from Sirod Chatthong was only just beaten away by Mat Ryan in the Socceroos goal.

Thailand continued to push forward in the second half, their passing and quick movement causing problems for Australia.

Ten minutes after the restart, Thailand had a penalty after Mathew Leckie brought down Theerathon Bunmathan in the area. Teerasil stepped up and slotted the ball over the diving Ryan to put Thailand ahead.

Australia tried to hit back immediately and Kawin had to get down to his left quickly to claw out a Jedinak header that was destined for the bottom corner.

In the 64th minute, the two squared off once again as Australia were granted a second penalty. This time the Aston Villa midfielder went low but the outcome was the same.

With 14 minutes remaining, substitute Nathan Burns let fly from outside the area but his left-foot shot clipped the crossbar.

Thailand had a chance to restore their lead after 85 minutes as Chatthong broke free only for his close-range shot to be well-saved by Ryan, meaning that both sides had to settle for a share of the spoils. "It was emotional but I am disappointed we could not get the three points as we played very well and the players fought hard against a good national team like Australia," said Thailand coach Kiattisuk Senamuang. "However, this one point can bring happiness to the Thai fans. I would like to thank the fans and media for supporting the team. We have five games left and three of them are at home. We think it is not over yet and we can take confidence from this in the second half of the group stage. We know we can get more points. The road to Russia is not over yet and there is still a long way to go."

match report from the FFA

The Caltex Socceroos have spurned the chance to go top of the group after a thrilling 2-2 draw against an energetic Thailand on Tuesday night in Bangkok.

In a see-saw game that had the fans on their feet, Australia took an early lead before two goals to Teerasil Dangda had the War Elephants dreaming of a huge upset.

But a third penalty got the Aussies back into it the contest just after the hour mark.

On a spongy and bumpy surface, Australia dominated the first few minutes with a number of chances created.

It was not surprise when they opened up the Thais to take the lead on seven minutes.

Tom Rogic was put through wide and the Celtic star's low shot was parried by the keeper to Jamie Maclaren.

His scuffed effort rebounded to Mat Leckie and his goal-bound shot was handled in the box by Pratum.

Jedinak coolly converted to open the scoring.

But the script was thrown out when in their first real goal threat the Thais equalised on 20 minutes.

A brilliant through ball down Australia's left caused problems and the ever-reliable Teerasil Dangda was first to the loose ball slotting home from an angle, much to the delight of the 40,000 plus fans at the Rajamangala.

Australia struggled to find any rhythm after the Thai goal, as the hosts grew in belief.

A stinging low shot parried away by Mat Ryan another reminder of Thailand's confidence.

And Thailand began the second half in equally energetic and positive fashion, pushing the Aussies back with purpose.

Leckie, who won the penalty in the first half, gave away a foul in the box on 57 minutes and Dangda has his brace with a perfectly taken penalty.

The crowd was jumping as a bollover in Bangkok loomed.

Jedinak's header off a corner went very close as the Australians made a double substitution to find a way back with Mark Milligan and Nathan Burns coming on.

And ten minutes later they'd restored parity.

A push in the box was picked up by the referee and Jedinak's penalty just evaded the Thai keeper to make it 2-2.

Burns, who had looked sharp, smashed a powerful shot against the top of the bar as the Australians pressed.

But the Socceroos could've easily gone 3-2 down in the final few minutes.

A Mooy turnover was pounced on but Mat Ryan saved the day with a smart one-handed save in a one-one with Thailand's Siroch.

As the teams tired the game was stretched with the Thais looking most likely.

But the visitors hung on and it ended 2-2 on a night when Thailand made a huge statement.

With Japan winning their game with Saudi Arabia, the Blue Samurai now go equal top of Group B with the Saudis.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
23rd. March 2017, 16.30			PAS Stadium, Tehran, IR Iran				Light rain shower			7C		3270	
Iraq..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, Iraq..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
20	GK	Mohammed Hameed Farhan					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
2	DF	Ahmed Ibrahim Khalaf					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
3	DF	Ali Bahjat Fadhil				56	5	DF	Mark Milligan		80		
17	DF	Alaa Ali Mhawi					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
22	DF	Rebin Gharid Sulaka		75			13	MF	Aaron Mooy		7		
		Dhurgham Ismael Dawoud											
15	MF	Al-Quraisha					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				
19	MF	Mahdi Kamil Shiltagh				74	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
		Saad Abdul-Amir Luaibi											
21	MF	Al-Zirjawi (c)					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				82
6	FW	Ali Adnan Kadhim Al-Tameemi					7	FW	Mathew Leckie	39			
8	FW	Mohannad Abdul Raheem Karrar					9	FW	Tomi Juric				72
14	FW	Amjed Kalaf Mansour Al-Muntafiq				45	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				63
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Jalal Hassan Hachim					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				63
4	DF	Mustafa Nadhim Al-Shabbani					3	MF	Bradley Smith				63
5	DF	Ali Faez Atiyah					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				72
		Hammadi Ahmad Abdullah											
7	FW	Al-Daiya				74	6	DF	Rhys Williams				
9	MF	Ahmed Yaseen Gheni	76			56	11	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				
11	FW	Amjed Attwan Kadhim				45	14	FW	James Troisi				82
		Mohammed Gassid Kadhim											
12	GK	Al-Jaberi					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
13	MF	Bashar Resan Bonyan					17	MF	Riley McGree				
16	FW	Ali Husni Faisal					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
		Mohammed Jabbar Shokan											
18	FW	Al-Mayyahi					19	FW	Nathan Burns				
23	DF	Waleed Salim Edwareej Al-Lami					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
							23	DF	Rhyan Grant				
Team Coach		Radhi Shenaishil Swadi					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Basil Gorges Hanna					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Kim Jong-Hyeok (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yoon Kwang-Yeol (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Kim Young-Ha (Korea Republic)											

match report from AFC

Second half substitute Ahmed Yasin salvaged a point for Iraq although Australia remain undefeated in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russian Asian qualifiers after a 1-1 draw in Group B on Thursday at a soggy PAS Tehran Stadium.

Iraq started brightly in wet conditions although Amjed Kalaf in particular was guilty of wasting some guilt-edged opportunities before Mathew Leckie put the reigning AFC Asian Cup champions in front on 39 minutes after heading home Aaron Mooy's corner.

Iraq made a series of attacking changes after the half-time break and it was one of those new faces, midfielder Yasin, who was on hand to slide home a rebound at the back post to level the scores on the 76th minute.

Both sides had chances in a frantic final quarter of an hour with Socceroos icon Tim Cahill joining the fray but time ran out and they had to settle for a share of the spoils.

match report from SBS

The Socceroos have escaped with a nerve-wracking 1-1 draw against Iraq amid dreadful conditions in Tehran to leave their 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification hopes in the balance.

Mathew Leckie gave Australia the lead with a 40th minute header from an Aaron Mooy corner kick but Iraq's attacking persistence paid off through substitute Ahmed Yasin's second-half equaliser.

It came as coach Ange Postecoglou bodily unveiled a brand new 3-4-3 formation at the PAS Stadium and they clearly battled to adjust as they hung on for their fourth qualifying draw in a row.

Australia has three home games to come - the next on Tuesday in Sydney against the United Arab Emirates - and at this stage it appears they will likely need to win all of them to make it to Russia.

Predictions of a scrap-fest turned out to be on the money.

Steady rain throughout the day exacerbated what was already one of the worst pitches Australia has played on in recent years, and at times the new-look back three of Mark Milligan, Milos Degenek and Bailey Wright looked unable to cope.

Mooy's corner five minutes from the break superbly picked out Leckie, who headed home at the near post to relieve the pressure valve on the Socceroos.

It was only through some wasteful Iraqi finishing and some desperate defensive acts - such as Mark Milligan's last-second intervention to deny Amjed Kalaf a certain goal in the 22nd minute - that Australia was able to remain level until that point.

But the Lions of Mesopotamia kept on coming and in the 76th minute managed to square the ledger.

A terrific cross from Ali Adnan found Yasin, who scored to bring the small but vocal and largely pro-Iraqi crowd back to life in an instant.

Both teams had chances to win it in a frantic end to the match but it is undoubtedly the Socceroos, who will be happier with the point in the circumstances.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time		Venue				Weather		Temperature		Attendance			
29th. March 2017, 20.00		Sydney Football Stadium, Moore Park, Sydney, New South Wales (Allianz Stadium)				Cloudy		21C		27328			
Australia..3 v. United Arab Emirates..0													
half time, Australia..1 v. United Arab Emirates..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Ali Khaseif Humad Khaseif Housani (c)				
2	DF	Milos Degenek					3	DF	Walid Abbas Murad Yousuf Al-Bloushi				79
8	DF	Bailey Wright		84			6	DF	Al Amim Mohannad Salem Ghazy Al-Enazi				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					14	DF	Abdelaziz Sanqour				
5	MF	Mark Milligan		82			19	DF	Mohamed Ismail Ahmed Ismail		85		
14	MF	James Troisi					5	MF	Tareq Ahmed Al Hammadi				38
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				89	9	MF	Ahmed Barman Ali Shamroukh Hammoudi		80		
22	MF	Jackson Irvine	6			82	15	MF	Ismaeel Salem Ismaeel Saeed Al Hammadi				
3	FW	Bradley Smith					21	MF	Omar Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Raqi Al-Amoodi				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie	78				7	FW	Ali Ahmed Mabkhout Mohsen Omaran Alhajeri				
9	FW	Tomi Juric				71	11	FW	Ahmed Khalil Sebait Mubarak Al-Junaibi				55
SUBSTITUTES													
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				71	2	FW	Salem Saleh Mussallam Salem Al-Rejaibi				
6	DF	Rhys Williams					4	MF	Habib Fardan Abdualla				
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				82	8	DF	Hamdan Ismail Mohammed Al Kamali				
11	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				89	10	FW	Ismail Matar Ibrahim Khamis Al Mukhaini Al Junaibi				79
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					12	GK	Khalid Eisa Mohamed Bilal Saeed				
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					13	MF	Khamis Esmail Khamis Zayed				55
17	MF	Riley McGree					16	MF	Mohamed Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Raqi Al-Almoodi		83		38
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic					17	DF	Fares Juma Hasan Juma Al-Saadi				
19	FW	Nathan Burns					18	DF	Mohammed Fawzi Jawhar Faraj Abdullah Al-Jawhar				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					20	MF	Hassan Ibrahim Jumaa Hasan				
23	DF	Rhyan Grant					22	GK	Majed Naser Humaid Bakheit				
							23	DF	Mahmoud Khamis Saeed Khamis Al-Hammadi				
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Mahdi Ali Hassan Redha				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Metref Ali Metref				
Referee		Ahmed Abu Bakar Al Kaf (Oman)											
Assistant Referee 1		Hamed Sulaiman Al Mayahi (Oman)											
Assistant Referee 2		Abu Bakar Al-Amri (Oman)											

match report from The Sydney Morning Herald, 28/3/2017

The Socceroos have a strong chance of qualifying for Russia directly from their group following Tuesday night's win, but their inability to score from open play in a fourth consecutive match didn't provide any reassurances over their switch to an overly attacking formation.

Australia rarely threatened in possession against the UAE, looked disjointed going forward and vulnerable to elementary attacks. Had it not been for their strength from set-pieces, they may not have staved-off the spirited performance of the visitors. Following the brave, gutsy yet disrupted performance, Postecoglou hit back at critics, suggesting Australian coaches are disrespected.

"I expect to be held accountable for what I say and the kind of football I want to play but it seems I've been held accountable for doing what I said I'd do this week. Maybe if I was a foreign coach we'd all sit back and say what a genius he is, he's coming up with new ways to challenge these guys. But what I've said since day one is that I will not talk down to our players, I will not speak to our players if they're not as good as somebody else just because they're Australian and I'm certainly not going to sell short our coaching staff."

Three points is all that mattered after their group lead from the first two games slipped from their grasp but Australia showed character to clinch three points in a high-pressure fixture for the first time since September last year. It kept them within pace of the group leaders Saudi Arabia and Japan, but the win suggested there's still some way to go before Postecoglou's new system delivers the brand of football it's promised.

"If people want the perfect system, it's probably the hot water system at home but it ain't a football system," Postecoglou said. "You know what, it's a game of football, we're going to try and score goals which we did."

We created a number of opportunities which we probably should have scored from and the opposition are going to create some opportunities."

Questions will continue to linger over their potency in attack, their dead-ball work continued to deliver. A Brad Smith corner six minutes into the contest set the platform for Jackson Irvine to continue their set-piece dominance, firing a powerful header into the net via a deflection off UAE fullback Adelaziz Sanqour.

It was more relief than celebration for a team that entered the match under the unfamiliar cloud of doubt, but that early goal was their only memorable moment of an otherwise disappointing first half.

The controversial new 3-2-4-1 formation was more organised in its second deployment but it still wasn't without its flaws.

Wide players Smith and Matt Leckie didn't show a strong comprehension of their roles as Australia still looked vulnerable down the flanks. More worrying was the lack of confidence dealing with long balls as UAE probed forward with ease and simplicity. Their forgiving finishing and hesitancy in attack is all that prevented them from drawing level when they got in behind the Socceroos' backline.

Ahmed Khalil's decision making spurned chances while Omar Abdulrahman tested Mat Ryan with a superb free-kick thwarted by the Socceroos returning goalkeeper.

Whatever was said by Ange Postecoglou during the break failed to snap Australia out of their routine-like play. Yet another corner gave them a chance to look lethal as Mile Jedinak tested goalkeeper Ali Khaseif, but there was no improvement to their insipid defence or toothless attack. They had plenty of wake-up calls but failed to adjust for UAE's pace out wide and on the break and should have been punished in the 55th minute by Mohamed Al-Raqi, whose one-on-one couldn't beat Ryan in goals.

Australia's answer was similarly predictable, looking to the proven and trusted head of Tim Cahill to provide some much needed direction. His injection coincided with a more spirited performance and Irvine should have had his double in the 77th minute only for Khaseif to deny him with an impressive save.

It was Australia's best chance from open play, despite a new system tailored to an attacking style, though its failure was forgotten in the 79th minute. Australia sealed a crucial win when Matthew Leckie slotted a James Troisi corner to put the Socceroos hopes of reaching Russia back on course.

match report from FFA

Australia got off to a perfect start with Jackson Irvine's bullet header – his first for his nation – giving the hosts a vital edge. But with Omar Abdulrahman becoming increasingly influential, UAE worked their way back into the contest for the remainder of the first half. It remained a tight contest with UAE pressing hard early in the second stanza but the home side was lifted with 20 minutes to go when Tim Cahill came on for Tomi Juric.

Immediately chances came Australia's way as UAE continued to exploit Australia's right side of defence. The game opened up in the final stages with both sides creating good chances – Irvine going closest to doubling his and Australia's tally with a neat header.

And Mat Leckie doubled the lead with 11 minutes left with a power header to confirm the points. Some heavy tackles crept into the final stages of the game as UAE sensed the jig was up.

Goals:-

Australia's first effort on goal came from Jackson Irvine, the Burton Albion man powering home a corner which was deflected past Ali Khaseif and rolled into the net.

Australia..1, UAE..0

James Troisi's curling corner was met by Leckie and in a replica of his goal in Tehran last week, the German-based striker smashed his header home.

Australia..2, UAE..0

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
8th. June 2017, 19.30			Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, South Australia			Dry			11C		29875		
Australia..3 v. United Arab Emirates..2													
half time, Australia..2 v. United Arab Emirates..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					22	GK	Yasser Abdullah Al-Mosailem				
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					3	DF	Osama Hawsawi (c)				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					4	DF	Abdullah Mohammed Al-Zoari Al-Dossary				
2	MF	Milos Degenek					5	DF	Omar Ibrahim Omar Othman Hawsawi				
3	MF	Bradley Smith				46	6	DF	Mohammed Al-Breik				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy					7	MF	Salman Mohammed Al-Faraj				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)					8	MF	Yahya Sulaiman Ali Al-Shehri				82
7	FW	Mathew Leckie					11	MF	Abdulmalek Al-Khaibri				69
9	FW	Tomi Juric	7, 36			85	17	MF	Taiseer Jaber Al-Jassam				
22	FW	Jackson Irvine				63	18	MF	Salem Mohammed Al-Dawsari	23			82*
23	FW	Tomas Rogic	64				10	FW	Mohammad Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Sahlawi	45+1			
SUBSTITUTES													
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill					1	GK	Waleed Abdullah Ali				
6	DF	Dylan McGowan					2	DF	Mansoor Ateeq Al-Harbi				
8	DF	Bailey Wright					9	MF	Abdulfattah Tawfiq Asiri				82
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				63	12	DF	Saeed Fawaz Al-Mowalad				
11	FW	Jamie Maclaren					13	DF	Mohammed Abdulhakem Al-Fatil				
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					14	MF	Abdullah Ibrahim Otayf				69
14	FW	James Troisi					15	FW	Nasser Ali Al-Shamrani				
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				46	16	MF	Housain Al-Mogahwi				
17	MF	Ajdin Hrustic					19	MF	Salman Al-Moashar				82*
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic					20	MF	Abdulmajeed Abdullah Al-Ruwaili				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo				85	21	GK	Abdullah Al-Muyouf				
							23	FW	Abdullah Fareed Al-Hafith				
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Lambertus Marwijk				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Zaki Ibrahim Al-Saleh				
Referee		Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jakhongir Saidov (Uzbekistan)											

Mohammed Al-Breik is also shown as Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Burayk.
Housain Al-Mogahwi is also shown as Hussain Al-Mogahwi, Hussain Al-Mogahwi, and Housain Al-Maqahoy.
Salman Al-Moashar is also shown as Salman Mohammed Muwashar and Salman Al-Muwashar.
Abdullah Al-Muyouf is also shown as Abdullah Al-Muaiof.

match reort from the AFC

Australia edged a five-goal thriller against Saudi Arabia on Thursday as Ange Postecoglou's Socceroos pulled themselves back into contention for an automatic berth at the FIFA World Cup finals in Russia next year. Tom Rogic fired a blistering effort into the top corner 64 minutes into the second-half to give Australia a win that moves them level on points with the Saudis, who hold on to second place in Group B on goal difference despite the loss. Japan, who play Iraq on Tuesday lead the standings. Tomi Juric twice gave the home side the lead in the first-half, capitalising on goalkeeper Yasser Al Mosailem's mistake to put Australia ahead after just seven minutes before Salem Al Dawsari used his pace to latch on to Mohammad Al Sahlawi's return pass to level the scores 16 minutes later. Juric's second in the 36th minute – a header from close range – was cancelled out by a fine team effort on the stroke of half-time when Al Sahlawi struck from eight yards out after Taiseer Al Jassam had nodded Mohammad Al Burayk's sweeping ball from the right into the Al Nassr forward's path. (Al Nassr is a UAE club)
Rogic, though, claimed the decisive third for Australia 18 minutes into the second-half when the Saudi defence gave the Celtic midfielder time and space on the edge of the area to drive his shot into the top corner of Al Mosailem's goal.

match report from SBS

Juric came agonisingly close in the third minute after pressuring Saudi keeper Yasser Al Mosailem whose clearance rebounded off the Luzern striker, almost landing in the net.

Al Mosailem wasn't as lucky the second time, only moments later slipping on yet another clearance, kicking the ball straight to Juric who slotted the ball in from long range, more than 15 yards outside the box in the seventh minute.

Australia dominated play for the next 15 minutes before Ange Postecoglou's decision to go with a back three was bought into question with Salem Al-Dawsari slicing through the defence after picking up the ball just past the halfway line, dribbling through the Socceroos defence and playing the ball past Mat Ryan to level the score.

Juric was far from done, with Mathew Leckie blitzing past the Saudi defence on the right wing, placing a perfectly timed cross to the unmarked striker in the box, heading the ball with ease into the far left in the 36th minute.

Looking like going in the break with a one goal advantage, the Falcons pounced in injury time, again capitalising on Australia's poor defence, this time with Mohammed Al Sahlawi latching onto a headed pass in the box to even the score at 2-2.

The second period was quiet, with Australia dominating possession but failing to find any real chances at goal.

That changed when Aaron Mooy found Tom Rogic with a perfect pass, with the Celtic midfielder lining up outside the box, directing a powerful shot into the top left just after the hour mark.

Ryan saved an Al Sahlawi shot at the other end, before the Socceroos fumed when they had a penalty claim turned down after Leckie was taken down by Salman Al Faraj as he raced through on goal.

Juric had a chance for a hat-trick goal that would have sealed victory, but fired over the bar after being gifted an opportunity presented to him by substitute defender Aziz Behich.

That did not cost Australia, though, Ryan not having a major save to make in the final stages as Postecoglou's men celebrated a vital triumph.

Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou said despite Australia's two goals, his side appeared anxious in the first half.

"We lacked a little bit of composure," he said

"The second half we played better ...it was very pleasing and very strong and will give the players a great deal of encouragement."

Saudi Arabian coach Bert van Marwijk said he was angry at some "personal mistakes" from his players which led to Australian goals.

"We didn't have any problems with the attacking play of Australia," he said.

"We made mistakes ourselves, that was the problem."

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
13th. June 2017, 20.00			Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Victoria				Fine					49874	
Australia..0 v. Brazil..4													
half time, Australia..0 v. Brazil..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					23	GK	Diego Alves Carreira				
2	DF	Milos Degenek					3	DF	Thiago Emiliano da Silva	62			78
8	DF	Bailey Wright				78	16	DF	Alex Sandro Lobo Silva				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				57*	18	DF	Márcio "Rafinha" Ferreira de Souza				
5	MF	Mark Milligan					20	DF	Rodrigo Caio Coquette Russo				
10	MF	Robbie Kruse					11	MF	Philippe Coutinho Correia (c)				71
14	MF	James Troisi				79	14	MF	David Luiz Moreira Marinho				73
									José "Paulinho" Paulo Bezerra				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo				78*	15	MF	Maciel Júnior				83
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)				57	7	FW	Douglas Costa de Souza				59
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				57**	10	FW	Giuliano "Giuliano" Victor de Paula				78*
16	FW	Aziz Eraltay Behich					21	FW	Diego de Souza Andrade	1, 90+3			
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Weverton "Weverton" Pereira da Silva				
6	DF	Dylan McGowan				78	2	DF	Fagner "Fagner" Conserva Lemos				
9	FW	Tomi Juric					4	DF	Carlos "Gil" Gilberto Nascimento Silva				
11	FW	Jamie Maclaren				57	5	MF	Fernando "Fernandinho" Luiz Roza				73
13	MF	Aaron Mooy				78*	6	DF	Filipe Luís Kasmirski				
17	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				57**	8	FW	Renato Soares de Oliveira Augusto				83
									Ederson "Ederson" Santana de Moraes				
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic					12	GK	Jemerson "Jemerson" de Jesus Nascimento				78
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					13	DF	Taison "Taison" Barcellos Freda	75			59
22	FW	Jackson Irvine				57*	17	FW	Willian "Willian" Borges da Silva				71
23	FW	Tomas Rogic				79	19	FW	Rodrigo "Rodrigo" Eduardo Costa Marinho				78*
							22	MF					
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Adenor Leonardo Bacchi "Tite"				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager						
Referee		Mark Clattenburg (England)											
Assistant Referee 1		Ian Hussin (England)											
Assistant Referee 2		Gary Beswick (England)											

match report from FFA

A Philippe Coutinho-inspired Brazil eased past the Caltex Socceroos 4-0 in a friendly on Tuesday night at the MCG.

Brazil, the world number one ranked nation, stunned Australia with an opener after just 12 seconds.

Brazilian captain Philippe Coutinho was the game's best player, effortlessly gliding past opponents and creating numerous opportunities.

Chelsea pair Willian and David Luiz were class, Luiz was a rock at the back for the Selecao and was pivotal in the second goal while Willian's speed and close skills were on show after he came on in the second half.

The Socceroos handed a debut to Ajdin Hrustic and Dylan McGowan, who both came on in the second half

GOALS:-

Diego Souza (Brazil), 1': 0-1

Australia kicked off, the ball was passed back to Bailey Wright, an errant pass later and Brazil swooped. Within seconds they were inside the Socceroos' box and Diego Souza slotted low across Mitch Langerak's right glove after just 12 seconds.

Thiago Silva (Brazil), 61': 0-2

Coutinho's outswinging corner was met by David Luiz who powered his header against the crossbar, the ball wasn't cleared and the PSG defender was on hand to head home the loose ball.

Taison (Brazil) 74': 0-3

Gorgeous interplay started by Willian before Paulinho played his part with a back heel that found Taison who slotted home his first international goal.

Diego Souza (Brazil) 93': 0-4

A corner was won after a thrilling counter and Souza made it a double with a header off the set piece with the final action in the game.

match report from Foxsports

The Socceroos could not have started or ended the game any worse, though the 48,847 fans remained entertained.

Attacker Giuliano read Bailey Wright's pass and combined with Souza in a rapid transition with the latter scoring after just 12 seconds.

Few nations in the world, and probably none of Australia's Asian opposition, would have had the class to ruthlessly expose the opposition like that but it was a harsh insight into the fortnight - and hopefully year - ahead.

The Socceroos did not panic and though under pressure from the world's no.1 team, they stayed true to their style as Postecoglou persisted with his 3-2-4-1 formation.

Making eight changes from the Saudi Arabia win last Thursday, the makeshift Socceroos settled, though their final ball often lacked quality or were underhit.

While the Socceroos' collective improves despite showing frailties, individually there were positives.

Aziz Behich looks to have made the left side his own, defender Trent Sainsbury was composed in the middle of the back three, Mark Milligan led well in Mile Jedinak's absence and Dutch-based debutant Ajdin Hrustic was positive and aggressive when he came on in attack.

The Socceroos finished with a very young team and looked at their most dangerous when Aaron Mooy and Tom Rogic came on, but in the end Mitch Langerak was the only busy keeper, producing several top saves to keep the classy Brazilians at bay.

It was educational for youth development boffins too, for Brazil's greater skill was obvious but they also possessed greater natural aggression - something that Australian players have lost - headlined by David Luiz.

The Chelsea defender was deployed as a midfielder and was a constant pest, tugging and kicking at Robbie Kruse and company.

And it was on display for Brazil's second goal when Luiz headed Coutinho's corner against the underside of the crossbar before Thiago Silva leapt like Superman above a pack of players to head it over the line in the 62nd minute.

Coutinho, the Liverpool star, was on a different level.

While Brazil's aggressive approach - a high line and press - forced the Socceroos into constant turnovers, Australia had less success with their attempts to assert, often due to Coutinho's ability to roll players.

He had some handy teammates though, in Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa and Zenit St Petersburg's Giuliano.

There is plenty of intelligence for Postecoglou and his coaching staff to dissect as they prepare for intriguing duels with Germany, Portugal and Cameroon in the next fortnight.

Confederations Cup, 1st Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
19th. June 2017, 18.00			Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi, Russia				Cloudy			20C		28605	
Germany..3 v. Australia..2													
half time, Germany..2 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Bernd Leno					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Shkodran Mustafi					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
3	DF	Jonas Hector					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
16	DF	Antonio Rüdiger					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
18	DF	Joshua Kimmich					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury		64		
7	MF	Julian Draxler (c)	44(pk)				5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
8	MF	Leon Goretzka	48	55			13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
13	MF	Lars Stindl	5			78	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				46
20	MF	Julian Brandt				63	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
21	MF	Sebastian Rudy					9	FW	Tomi Juric	56			86
9	FW	Sandro Wagner				57	23	FW	Tomas Rogic	41			71
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Kevin Trapp					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
22	GK	Marc-Andre Ter Stegen					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
4	DF	Matthias Ginter					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
5	DF	Marvin Plattenhardt					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				86
6	DF	Benjamin Henrichs					6	DF	Dylan McGowan				
10	MF	Kerem Demirbay					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				46
11	FW	Timo Werner				57	11	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
14	MF	Emre Can				78	14	FW	James Troisi				71
15	MF	Amin Younes					15	MF	James Jeggo				
17	DF	Niklas Süle				63	17	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				
							19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
							22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
Team Coach		Joachim Löw					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Mark Geiger (USA)											
Assistant Referee 1		Joe Fletcher (Canada)											
Assistant Referee 2		C.J.Morgante (USA)											

match report from the ABC

World champions Germany have given Australia a reminder of their place in football's pecking order with a 3-2 win at the Confederations Cup.

The Socceroos fought back from a decidedly dicey opening half when Tom Rogic scored another belter to cancel out Lars Stindl's opener.

Julian Draxler's penalty and Leon Goretzka's goal which came minutes either side of halftime sealed Australia's fate, though Tomi Juric did scramble home a consolation goal.

The best and worst of Ange Postecoglou's side was on display in Sochi.

The opening half-hour saw Australia on the ropes, with Stindl's fifth-minute opener bringing fears of a belting.

The 28-year-old found an acre of space to volley Julian Brandt's cut-back past Mat Ryan and the inattentive back three.

But Germany's failure to cash in on early chances allowed Rogic to rifle home a 41st minute equaliser.

The Canberran - clearly Australia's best player - kept his composure to score at the second attempt from long range, after his first was blocked, to shock the 28,605 at the Olympic Stadium.

Parity lasted all of three minutes.

An out-of-sorts Massimo Luongo lunged at man-of-the-match Goretzka in the box and Draxler's penalty ensured Germany went into the half-time break ahead once more.

Two minutes after the break, a dazzling through-ball from Joshua Kimmich put Goretzka through to thrash past Ryan at close range at the near post.

Then came an Australian lifeline.

Another fine Rogic run drew a free-kick which Juric scrambled home when goalkeeper Bernd Leno fumbled.

The goal had to be confirmed via the Video Assistant Referee, although Australia could have been classed as lucky as replays showed a handball.

But there was to be no off-the-canvas third for Postecoglou's Socceroos, who finished stronger but left themselves too much to do.

The first-up loss makes it difficult to see Australia getting out of the group, with taxing matches against Cameroon and group leaders Chile to come.

match report from Fox Sports

Australia opened their Confederations Cup campaign with a defeat to Germany in Sochi, but showed enough fighting quality to at least make a contest of it, after the world champions had threatened to overrun them. First half goals from Lars Stindl and Julian Draxler, from the penalty spot, sandwiched a fine strike from Tom Rogic, with Leon Goretzka extending the German's lead immediately after the break.

Tomi Juric gave Australia hope when he finished from close range around the hour mark, setting up a breathless finish, in which the Socceroos threatened but could not find an equaliser.

The half-time introduction of Robbie Kruse changed the Socceroos' fortunes. The side was more balanced with Aaron Mooy, as a result, deployed further back, after he had started in one of the two No. 10 roles in the now customary 3-2-4-1 formation, Massimo Luongo, who made way for Kruse, having started in the defensive spot.

With more pace and direct running at the top end of the pitch, Australia were able to force the issue and saw more of the ball. Though they were possibly aided by the Germans dropping their own intensity and switching to a back three themselves in the second half, after starting out with two banks of four and two forwards - Joachim Low making good on his promise to experiment.

Before the changes it was one way traffic, with the Germans irresistible in the opening exchanges.

In what was to become a theme of the first half, on five minutes Bayern Leverkusen midfielder Julian Brandt strode purposefully in to the space behind Aziz Behich, eating up ground with the ball at his feet. He found the perfect cut back to pick out Stindl, who made no mistake from 12 yards out.

Brandt was electric down the right flank, using the space between Mark Milligan - captain in the absence of Mile Jedinak - Behich and Bailey Wright to launch probing runs after probing runs.

A second nearly came 10 minutes later, predictably down the same route. A ball down the flank turned a square Socceroos defence on their heels, the cross on a plate for target man Sandro Wanger, who dived to head wide when he should have done better.

Brandt's mastery of the contest was underlined in one particular telling moment. After slipping in the box when on his latest sortie in on goal, the youngster had still enough time to get up and get a smart shot away.

Ryan made a fine near post save.

The chances kept coming for Germany. Wanger guilty of wasting several.

Only Tom Rogic showed promise for Australia in the first half, but wasn't on the ball often enough as Germany dominated.

For all that they were on the back foot, Australia should have levelled 10 minutes before the break. Mooy swung in a free kick from the left, finding Sainsbury free in the box. He could only nod wide.

That ushered in an eventful close to the half. First there was a stunning clearance from under the posts from Matthew Leckie when another German goal looked certain.

Then, from nothing, Australia did get on even terms - on the scoreboard at least. Rogic was always the man most likely, and he delivered five minutes before the break. Given space in the middle, he strode forward and saw his first shot come back off a defender, the second attempt was truer and found the net.

Three minutes later, however, Germany had returned some sense to the scoreline. Goretzka got in on goal and a desperate sliding tackle from Luongo was rightly punished with a spot kick. Draxler converted coolly, sending Ryan the wrong way.

The second period began much as the first had finished, the sides trading goals in quick succession. Mooy's lack of pace was exposed by a run behind him from Goretzka, who finished smartly at the near post.

"We had good moments in the game, but we made it difficult for ourselves with the time that we conceded goals," said Rogic.

"Obviously it wasn't the best start, we got back in to it and to then to concede again straight after was a bit of a difficult one. I thought in the second half we controlled the game a bit more, had a bit more of the ball, were more comfortable. But in the end we weren't good enough."

From a free kick 20 yards out on the right Mooy struck the wall before Rogic fizzed the rebound back towards goal, Bernd Leno, the Bayer Leverkusen keeper, able only to parry after a deflection off Juric. The Socceroos striker pounced on the rebound to prod home just before the hour mark.

Australia enjoyed much more of the ball in the final half hour, the two wide men able to play in their opponents half, assisted by the removal of the game's stand out player in Brandt.

Chances came and went for both teams. James Troisi, on for Rogic, and Kruse both stung the palms of the Germany goalkeeper. Between those chances, Goretzka wriggled free in the Australian box but could only find the post.

It was a frantic end to what had for 55 minutes looked like a stroll towards victory for Germany. Tim Cahill, was thrown on. The kitchen sink was thrown at the Germans. But to no avail.

GERMANY 3 (Lars Stindl 5m, Julian Draxler 44m pen, Leon Goretzka 48m) bt AUSTRALIA 2 (Tomas Rogic 41m, Tomi Juric 56m) at Fisht Stadium

Confederations Cup, 1st Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
22nd. June 2017, 18.00			Saint Petersburg Stadium (Krestovsky Stadium), St. Petersburg, Russia				Partly Cloudy			15C		35021	
Cameroon..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, Cameroon..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Fabrice Ondoa					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Ernest Mabouka		90+1			2	DF	Milos Degenek				
4	DF	Adolphe Teikeu					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
5	DF	Michael Ngadeu Ngadjui					8	DF	Bailey Wright		81		
19	DF	Collins Fai					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
3	MF	Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa	45+1				5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)	60(pk)			
15	MF	Sebastien Siani		87			13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
17	MF	Arnaud Djoum					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
8	FW	Benjamin Moukandjo (c)				77	9	FW	Tomi Juric				70
10	FW	Vincent Aboubakar					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				65
13	FW	Christian Bassogog					23	FW	Tomas Rogic				79
SUBSTITUTES													
16	GK	Andre Onana					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
23	GK	Georges Bokwe					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
7	FW	Nicolas Ngamaleu					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				70
11	FW	Olivier Boumal					6	DF	Dylan McGowan				
12	DF	Jerome Guihoata					11	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
14	MF	Georges Mandjeck					14	FW	James Troisi				65
18	FW	Robert Ndip Tambe					15	MF	James Jeggo				
20	FW	Karl Toko Ekambi				77	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
21	DF	Lucien Owona					17	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				
22	DF	Jonathan Ngwem					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
							21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
							22	MF	Jackson Irvine				79
Team Coach		Hugo Broos					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Milorad Mažić (Serbia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Milovan Ristić (Serbia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Dalibor Djurdjević (Serbia)											

The Krestovsky Stadium is also called Zenit Arena and was called Saint Petersburg Stadium during the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

match report from Fox Sports

Honours even in St Petersburg between Australia and Cameroon. And a shared fate, too, in this Confederations Cup, an 1-1 draw between the African and Asian champions in all likelihood ending both teams' hopes of progress to the semi-finals.

A result and performance, too, that will raise further questions about Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou's claim that his side are ready to mix it at the top end of world football. If either side deserved to win it was Cameroon.

After Germany and Chile also played out a 1-1 draw, Australia must beat Chile by two clear goals in three days' time. An outcome that seems almost certainly beyond this honest but, in this company at least, limited team.

Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa had given Cameroon a deserved lead just before the break, latching on to a long ball over the top and beating Mat Ryan with an outstretched flick.

Socceroos captain Mark Milligan levelled from the penalty spot after the break, but Australia could not kick on from there to the win.

In truth they were hanging on in the dying stages, Cameroon full of power and pace in the last 15 minutes and looking the more likely to seal the win.

A shot count of 19 to five in Cameroon's favour certainly told the story of who was forcing the issue more.

However, Postecoglou saw it differently, insisting "it was a pretty even game," and praising his side's commitment to their game plan.

"I think we controlled large parts of it," he said. "They were every dangerous on transition and a couple of times got in behind us.

"We lacked a little bit of composure in the final third to get some meaningful chances. But we still had chances, particularly in the early part of the second half.

"There's certainly progression there, and they didn't give up. There's a real spirit in the team."

Postecoglou made two changes from the side that started against Germany. Alex Gersbach replaced Aziz Behich in the left wing back role after Behich was tormented by the world champions, and Robbie Kruse promoted to a starting berth after his decisive contribution to the Socceroos' improved second half showing in Sochi, with Massimo Luongo benched.

The pace and zip that Australia showed in the second period against Germany when Kruse was introduced, however, was largely absent from their play in the first period in St Petersburg. The Socceroos dominated the ball and held a solid shape, but Cameroon seemed happy for them to play across the back, the Africans also showing in flashes the threat they carried going forward, especially on the counter attack. What half chances there were in a subdued opening half-hour went Australia's way, though nothing truly clear cut was created. Kruse shot from distance straight at the goalkeeper. Rogic tried to dance through a crowd scene in the Cameroon box, but was beaten by weight of numbers.

On 20 minutes, Rogic found space in the attacking third of the pitch with a neat turn, fed the impressive Gersbach down the left, his cross just beyond the diving Juric when the goal beckoned.

For all Australia's neat and tidy play, they were forced on to the back foot as the half drew to a close, a sustained period of pressure finally telling in Cameroon's favour moments before the break.

Australia struggled to clear a succession of corners. Even when the ball was cleared, it swiftly came back. On one break back in to the Australian half, Milos Degenek flirted with personal jeopardy when impeding the speedy Christian Bassogog, but only conceded a corner despite preventing what looked like becoming a goalscoring chance in the making illegally.

Australia's luck, however, could not continue. A simple ball over the top saw Anguissa beat Degenek to the ball and flick a delicate shot up and over Ryan. It had been coming.

Before the game Cameroon manager Hugo Broos had derided Australia as a long ball team. The irony was that, at the break, Australia had been playing all the possession football, but Cameroon led thanks to a strike converted off a long ball of their own.

Almost immediately after the break, Juric had a chance to level, following good work from Kruse down the right. The Socceroos striker had enough time and space in the box to do better than blaze and effort over the bar.

When Australia's equaliser came, it was shortly after they almost went two behind. A neat pass behind Bailey Wright saw Cameroon hit the byline, target man Vincent Aboubakar waiting for the cut back. It had echoes of Germany's opening goal three days ago, but Cameroon were not as clinical and the chance went begging.

Unflustered and sticking to their methods, Australia worked the ball back to the other end and Gersbach went down in the box under a sliding tackle to earn penalty. To a chorus of boos from a crowd, vocally on the side of Cameroon, Milligan made no mistake from 12 yards.

Australia had their confidence up after the equaliser and pushed on for more, with the result that the game became stretched and slightly frenetic in the last half-hour. Aboubakar wasted yet another clear chance when Cameroon broke down the right and it was put on a plate on the penalty spot.

Tomi Juric endured a tough night at the office, unable to hold the ball up well enough in the first period. Toward the end of the game he was replaced by Tim Cahill coming on for his 99th cap and looking to find the spark that was missing from the Socceroos' play, for all their command of the ball at times.

But even Cahill's presence couldn't change Australia's fortunes. With an early exit for the tournament now all but certain.

Full-time CAMEROON 1 (Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa 45+1m) drew AUSTRALIA 1 (Mark Milligan 60m pen) at Zenit Arena.

Confederations Cup, 1st Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
25th. June 2017, 18.00			Spartak Stadium (Otkrytiye Arena), Moscow, Russia				Partly Cloudy			19C		33639	
Chile..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, Chile..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Claudio Andrés Bravo Muñoz (c)					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Eugenio Esteban Mena Reveco					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich		45+1		
4	DF	Mauricio Aníbal Isla Isla					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
13	DF	Paulo César Díaz Huincales					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				72
18	DF	Gonzalo Alejandro Jara Reyes					5	MF	Mark Milligan				
5	MF	Francisco Andrés Silva Gajardo					21	MF	Massimo Luongo		21		
6	MF	José Pedro Fuenzalida Gana				46	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
8	MF	Arturo Erasmo Vidal Pardo		57			4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)		33		57
		Charles Mariano Aránguiz Sandoval											
20	MF					46*	9	FW	Tomi Juric				62
7	FW	Alexis Alejandro Sánchez Sánchez					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				
11	FW	Eduardo Jesús Vargas Rojas				82	14	FW	James Troisi	42	31		
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Enzo Pablo Roco Roco					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
9	FW	Ángelo Nicolás Sagal Tapia					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
10	MF	Pedro Pablo Hernández		75		46*	6	DF	Dylan McGowan				
12	GK	Cristopher Benjamin Toselli Rios					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				57
14	MF	Felipe Alejandro Gutiérrez Leiva					8	DF	Bailey Wright				72
		Jean André Emanuel Beausejour Coliqueo											
15	DF						11	FW	Jamie Maclaren				62
16	FW	Martín Vladimir Rodríguez Torrejón	67			46	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
17	DF	Gary Alexis Medel Soto					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
19	FW	LeonardoFelipe Valencia Rossel					15	MF	James Jeggo				
21	MF	Marcelo Alfonso Díaz Rojas				82	17	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				
22	FW	Edson Raúl Puch Cortez					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
23	GK	Johnny Cristián Herrera Muñoz					23	FW	Tomas Rogic				
Team Coach		Juan Antonio Pizzi					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Gianluca Rocchi (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 1		Elenito Di Liberatore (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mauro Tonolini (Italy)											

match report from Fox Sports

The Socceroos made good on coach Ange Postecoglou's claim that his team are capable of mixing it with the very best in world football.

The 1-1 draw achieved against the world's no.4 ranked team and current South American champions saw them exit the Confederations Cup at the group stage.

But they will carry pride and belief with them back home after a much changed side put in a stirring, high energy performance in Moscow, their most complete 90 minutes in recent years.

The performance was a timely boost going in the two vital World Cup qualifiers later this year. The trip to Russia, though winless, has to be considered a success for that.

James Troisi had given Australia a first half lead they had earned through graft and guile, before Chile substitute Martin Rodriguez levelled the match from close range on 67 minutes.

Postecoglou made six changes from the team that drew 1-1 with Cameroon, leaving two of the side's best players, in Aaron Mooy and Tom Rogic, benched for a game they needed to win by two clear goals to progress. In the end they weren't missed.

Chile made five changes of their own but retained their main attacking weapons from the start in Alexis Sanchez, Eduardo Vargas and midfield force of nature Arturo Vidal.

However, if they thought they were in for an easy evening at the Spartak Stadium in Moscow, they were swiftly disabused of that notion by some rugged Socceroos challenges, as well as incisive passing and bravery on the ball.

Chile carried a threat throughout, but the back three of Trent Sainsbury, Mark Milligan and Ryan McGowan were immense. They had to be. Sanchez was electric.

But so too were the Australians. Massimo Luongo and Jackson Irvine were snapping in to tackles in the holding roles, the former rightly booked on 20 minutes when going through the back of Vidal.

Troisi and Aziz Behich followed him, as did Cahill, making his 100th appearance for the national team, following a particularly ugly foul on Charles Aranguiz on the half hour mark.

Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi heaped praise on the Socceroos, liking the quality of the match to that of "a World Cup quarter-final".

"We weren't able to develop our game," he said. "They closed every gap. Somethings maybe they were too physical, I don't know. The way they played allowed them to recover the ball often. They managed to stop us. I wouldn't say it was a poor performance from us."

Half chances came and went for both sides before a dramatic final 10 minutes of the half.

Australia were first to threaten. Troisi, named man-of-the-match after being central to Australia's creative force, had a shot blocked, but chipped the rebound in to the box to pick out Luongo's run. He could only shoot first time at goalkeeper Carlos Bravo.

Australia would not be denied for long. Kruse and Sainsbury double teamed to pick the pocket of Vargas in the centre circle before surging forward. Sainsbury was in uncharted territory and couldn't get his shot away, but did enough to work it to Kruse whose angled drive through a crowd scene found Troisi in space.

His cool, delicate dink over the diving Bravo was exquisite. Early hope was being nurtured in to belief by force of performance.

Chile responded, as champions do. Sanchez demonstrated his class once more, wriggling free of three challenges on the left touchline to launch an attack that eventually was repelled on the Australian line, just, by first Milligan's knee then McGowan's sliding clearance.

As the clock ticked in to added time at the end of the first half, Sainsbury had a glorious chance to double the lead, ballooning over the bar from close range when clear in space.

His blushes were spared by the linesman's flag. Though, had it been put away, that ruling would surely have been overturned on VAR. (*Video Assistant Referee*)

Australia began the second period with fire still in their bellies, Luongo and Cahill winning battles, Kruse pushing on, a succession of crosses testing Bravo in the Chile goal without managing to quite hit their mark.

Postecoglou sought to keep things fresh. Trusting his squad. Cahill was replaced by Mathew Leckie, Kruse moving inside. Vidal was booked soon after. Chile continuing to endure a more uncomfortable evening than most had predicted.

Sanchez hustled in to the box and stabbed a shot straight at Ryan. The partisan crowd tried to rouse their team. McGowan slid in to cut out a ball through the centre Vargas was set to exploit.

With both sides needing a single goal to ensure progression to the semi-finals, the game opened up late on. Troisi fired a thunderbolt that only cleared the crossbar by a few inches.

But then, a sucker punch. After a Chile cross wasn't cleared, the ball helped on from the head of Vargas, substitute Rodriguez showing a poacher's instinct to get to the ball before Sainsbury to stab is inside the post off Ryan's thigh.

Maclaren had a glorious chance on 70 minutes to restore Australia's lead. But, played in to the box in space he sliced his first time effort wide.

He almost made up for it six minutes later, exchanging smart passes with Kruse to put his team-mate in on goal but another, more taxing chance went begging.

In the final 20 minutes Chile grew more commanding in to the game as Australia tired, justifiably – though continued to harry and hunt in packs in search of turnovers and an avenue to goal.

There was to be none. The point they take from this fixture seems scant reward for the effort and guts Australia showed in going taking the game with one of the world's best and not looking out of place.

Postecoglou struck a downbeat mood follow the match after leaving the competition early, though was rightly proud of the effort and quality his side produced.

"We didn't get through the group," he said. "That was our objective and so we're disappointed with that. We needed to be at our best today and we were going to need energy for that and that's why we made the changes. Credit to the guys who came in. They certainly brought that and more. From our perspective it was a good performance. I thought we were the better side and deserved to get something out of it."

Anything close to a repeat performance in Japan in August would go a long way making sure Australia are back in Russia in 12 months time.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
31st. August 2017, 19.35			Saitama Stadium, Saitama, Japan				Good			21C		59492	
Japan..2 v. Australia..0													
half time, Japan..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Eiji Kawashima					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
3	DF	Shoji Gen					6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				
5	DF	Yuto Nagatomo					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
19	DF	Hiroki Sakai					3	MF	Bradley Smith				
22	DF	Maya Yoshida					5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
2	MF	Ideguchi Yosuke	82				21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
16	MF	Hotaru Yamaguchi					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
17	MF	Makoto Hasebe (c)					10	FW	Robbie Kruse		90		
14	FW	Takashi Inui				76	14	FW	James Troisi				61
15	FW	Yuya Osako		44		86	22	FW	Jackson Irvine				86
18	FW	Asano Takuma	41			89	23	FW	Tomas Rogic				70
SUBSTITUTES													
4	MF	Keisuke Honda					2	MF	Milos Degenek				
6	DF	Miura Genta					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				70
7	MF	Shibasaki Gaku					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
8	FW	Genki Haraguchi				76	9	FW	Tomi Juric				61
9	FW	Shinji Okazaki				86	11	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
10	MF	Shinji Kagawa					12	GK	Adam Federici				
11	FW	Yuya Kubo				89	15	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				86
12	GK	Higashiguchi Masaaki					16	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
13	MF	Kobayashi Yuki					17	FW	Awer Mabil				
20	DF	Makino Tomoaki					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
21	DF	Gotoku Sakai					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
23	GK	Nakamura Kosuke											
Team Coach		Vahid Halilhodzic					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Naoki Tsumura					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Alireza Faghani (Islamic Republic of Iran)											
Assistant Referee 1		Reza Sokhandan (Islamic Republic of Iran)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohammad Reza Mansouri (Islamic Republic of Iran)											

match report from the AFC

Japan booked their place at the 2018 FIFA World Cup as Group B winners after goals from Takuma Asano and Yosuke Ideguchi secured a 2-0 win over Australia on Thursday.

Asano volleyed home Yuto Nagatomo's inswinging cross in the 41st minute, sending the 59,492 crowd at Saitama Stadium into raptures, before Ideguchi wrapped things up with an effort from range with eight minutes to play.

Both teams started without several key players, with Keisuke Honda and Shinji Kagawa left on the bench for Japan and Aaron Mooy out for the visitors, and the Samurai Blue started the livelier of the two with Hiroki Sakai heading just wide from a corner in the second minute and Takashi Inui seeing an effort deflected past the post 12 minutes later.

Australia threw everything at Vahid Halilhodzic's side in the second half, including sending Tomi Juric and Tim Cahill on from the bench, but it wasn't enough and in the end Ideguchi struck the game's all-important second goal with a superb effort from 20 yards to secure Japan's passage to their sixth straight World Cup.

Mathew Leckie fired a warning shot for the Socceroos in the 38th minute, Maya Yoshida sticking out a leg and diverting the strike onto the post, but just three minutes later Asano beat the offside trap to put Japan in front.

Australia now need to beat Thailand at home in their final qualifier on Tuesday and hope Japan pick up at least a point away to Saudi Arabia if the Socceroos are to make it to their fourth straight World Cup. If Saudi Arabia win that game then it will go down to goal difference.

match report from the FFA

A goal in either half has seen Japan edge out the Caltex Socceroos 2-0 in their FIFA World Cup qualifier in Saitama on Tuesday night.

Ange Postecoglou's side enjoyed long periods of possession throughout the match but were unable to make it count against the Samurai Blue.

Takuma Asano and Yosuke Ideguchi scored the goals for the hosts as they guaranteed their spot at next year's World Cup in Russia.

The Caltex Socceroos were without star midfielder Aaron Mooy through illness, while Tomi Juric could only start on the bench due to an injury which kept him from training all week.

After an even start, Mathew Leckie came within inches of the opener, controlling Massimo Luongo's lay-off before sending a deflected effort off the base of the left-hand post from the edge of the area.

Then five minutes before the break Asano broke the deadlock after Nagatomo clipped a fine delivery in from the left and the Japanese winger side-footed a simple volley past Mat Ryan.

Postecoglou introduced Juric in the second half as they began to push for a way back into the contest, while fellow substitute Tim Cahill came within inches of meeting a Robbie Kruse cut-back at the far post.

Trent Sainsbury made a brilliant goal-line block to deny Ideguchi a second but it proved in vain for Australia, as the 21-year-old cut inside from the left before rifling an unstoppable shot past Ryan and into the top corner from 20 yards out in the closing minutes.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 3, Group B														
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance			
5th. September 2017, 20.00			Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, Melbourne, Australia			Rain and cloudy			7C		26393			
Australia..2 v. Thailand..1														
half time, Australia..0 v. Thailand..0														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					20	GK	Sinthaweechai Hathairattanakool					
8	DF	Bailey Wright		38		71	2	DF	Perapat Notechaiya		23			
16	DF	Alexander Gersbach				67	3	DF	Theerathon Bunmathan					
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					5	DF	Adison Promrak					
2	MF	Milos Degenek					19	DF	Tristan Do				90+1	
5	MF	Mark Milligan					7	MF	Sanrawat Dechmitr				73	
13	MF	Aaron Mooy					18	MF	Chanathip Songkrasin				79	
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)				57	21	MF	Pokklaw Anan	82				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie	86				4	FW	Chalermpong					
9	FW	Tomi Juric	69				10	FW	Teerasil Dangda (c)					
23	FW	Tomas Rogic					13	FW	Pansa Hemviboon					
SUBSTITUTES														
3	MF	Bradley Smith					1	GK	Kampon Phatomakkul					
6	DF	Matthew Spiranovic					6	FW	Wattana Playnum					
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				57	8	FW	Peeradol Chamrasamee					
11	FW	Jamie Maclaren				71	9	MF	Adisak Kraisor					
12	GK	Eugene Galekovic					11	MF	Mongkol Thosakrai				90+1	
14	FW	James Troisi				67	12	FW	Nurul Sriyankem				79	
15	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini					14	FW	Supachok Sarachart					
17	FW	Awer Mabil					15	DF	Bordin Phala					
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic					16	DF	Puttinan Wannasri					
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					17	DF	Manuel Tom Bihr					
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					22	FW	Sirod Chatthong				73	
22	FW	Jackson Irvine					23	GK	Siwarak Tedsungnoen					
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Milovan Rajevac					
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Piyapat Saropala					
Referee		Liu Kwok Man (Hong Kong)												
Assistant Referee 1		Chow Chun Kit (Hong Kong)												
Assistant Referee 2		Cheng Oi Cho (Hong Kong)												

match report from the Herald Sun, 6/9/2017

On Tuesday night fate appeared to conspire against the Socceroos in search of a fourth straight FIFA World Cup qualification.

The Socceroos battered Thailand to the extent that if it were a boxing bout the referee would've called it off by the sixth round.

But this is international football and Australia somehow managed to only score just two goals, via Tomi Juric and Mat Leckie, and concede late on in between leaving their World Cup hopes in the hands of Japan.

The Socceroos led shots on goal 46-8 and had 76 per cent possession, but plucky and improving Thailand frustrated Australia at a packed AAMI Park.

Aided by the urgency displayed by inclusion Tim Cahill and Mark Milligan's deployment in midfield, the Socceroos set a cracking pace and created an abundance of early chances.

When Aaron Mooy and Cahill struck the post inside 17 minutes — the latter's strike subsequently crawling across the face of goal — one sensed it wasn't going to be Australia's night.

Milligan and Juric then had a goal-bound shots blocked by desperate Thai defenders.

The longer the game went the tenser the crowd got and it infected the players as the ice-cool composure needed in such situations was missing.

For all their misfortune, the Socceroos perhaps could have anticipated, gambled more inside the penalty area and their final ball could have been crisper.

Considering Thai keeper Sinthaweechai Hathairatanakul's struggles with high balls — he spilt several — and Cahill and Juric's aerial prowess, Australia could have mixed it up a bit more and sent some earlier balls into the box.

Both Aussie goals included suspect Thai defending from high balls.

Australia's uncertainty was underlined by the back three — with right-sided stopper Bailey Wright surging forward to support and central stopper Trent Sainsbury reminding him of his defensive responsibilities.

Thai coach Milovan Rajevac virtually set up two banks of deep defence, including a back five with the dangerous duo of Teerasil Dangda and Chanatip Songkrasin.

Thailand was not without its chances — two-goal hero from last November's meeting and captain Dangda had a golden chance on 10 minutes while keeper Mat Ryan was lucky to escape yellow after he was caught out by the same player's pace and trickery.

Thailand should have had a penalty just after the restart when Sainsbury made contact with Dangda inside the box after a turnover.

Cahill was replaced by Robbie Kruse who was an inch away from scoring within second of his 57th minute substitution.

When Australia struck the upright for the third time with Rogic's excellent 67th minute effort, Australia's fate appeared sealed.

But Mooy and Juric combined to breath life into Australia's Russia 2018 hopes, with the former delivering another superbly flight ball which the latter glanced home.

Game on and Socceroos assistant Ante Milicic sprinted to Jamie Maclaren and grabbed him, virtually throwing the substitute onto the pitch for Wright.

Milligan dropped back but their intent was clear. Juric had a header cleared off the line while Rogic cleverly beat the keeper but it sailed just over.

Thailand silenced the 26,393 crowd on 82 minutes with a cleverly crafted equaliser when Pokklaw A-Nan's shot went in via the underside of the bar.

Mat Leckie restored the lead four minutes later when he pounced and blasted in a loose ball.

The Socceroos threw numbers forward but it was to no avail. Their destiny is out of their hands and it will be a tense few hours coming up.

World Cup Qualifying, Asian Play-off, 1st. Leg													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
5th. October 2017, 20.30			Hang Jebat Stadium, Melaka, Malaysia				Clear, warm and humid			27C		2150	
Syria..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, Syria..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Ibrahim Alma					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Hadi Al-Masri		87			6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
3	MF	Moayad Samir Al-Ajan					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
8	MF	Mahmoud Al-Mawas				75	19	DF	Joshua Risdon		36		63
14	MF	Tamer Haj Mohamad					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
18	MF	Mohamad Zaher Al-Midani (c)					2	MF	Milos Degenek		51		
20	MF	Khaled Al-Mobayed		13			5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)		45+1		
7	FW	Omar Maher Kharbin		78		80	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
9	FW	Omar Jihad Al-Somah	85(pk)				7	FW	Mathew Leckie		80		
13	FW	Youssef Kalfa				46	9	FW	Tomi Juric				83
21	FW	Fahd "Fadi" Youssef Youssef					10	FW	Robbie Kruse	40			70
SUBSTITUTES													
4	DF	Jehad Khair Al-Baour					3	MF	Bradley Smith				
5	MF	Gabriel Somi					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
6	DF	Amro Jenyat					11	MF	Craig Goodwin				
10	MF	Firas Mohamad Al-Khatib				75	12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
11	MF	Oday Abdul Al-Jafal				46	14	FW	James Troisi				
12	DF	Israa Amer Hamwiah					15	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				
15	MF	Alaa Al-Shbli					17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				63
16	MF	Hamid Darwich Mido					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
17	MF	Osama Omari					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				70
19	FW	Mardig Kevork Mardigian				80	22	FW	Jackson Irvine				
22	GK	Mahmoud Al-Youssef					23	FW	Tomas Rogic				83
23	GK	Ahmad Madania											
Team Coach		Ayman Al Hakeem					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager		Mohamad Fadi Al Dabbas					Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Alireza Faghani (Islamic Republic of Iran)											
Assistant Referee 1		Reza Sokhandan (Islamic Republic of Iran)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohammad Reza Mansouri (Islamic Republic of Iran)											

Mardig Kevork Mardigian is also shown as Mardik Mardikian. Moayad Samir Al-Ajan is also shown as Mouaid Al Aijan. Mahmoud Al-Mawas is also shown as Mahmoud Al Maowas.

match report from the AFC

A late penalty from Omar Al Soma earned Syria a 1-1 draw against Australia in the first leg of their FIFA World Cup 2018 Continental Play-off at Hang Jebat Stadium on Thursday.

Australia started the brighter of the two sides in humid conditions and almost took an early lead with midfielder Mark Milligan's effort forcing a fine save from Syrian goalkeeper Ibrahim Alma.

The Socceroos then opened the scoring five minutes before half time when Mathew Leckie got in behind the Syrian defence, cutting back and firing in a shot-cum-cross with his left foot that was turned in by Robbie Kruse for his first goal for Australia since the 2015 AFC Asian Cup.

After the break, Tomi Juric was unlucky to see his shot come back off the woodwork - and even unluckier when, bizarrely, he crashed the rebound off the same post.

Syria then began to take control.

Omar Kharbin had a shot blocked by Leckie, before Al Soma headed a good chance over and was then denied an almost certain goal by Milos Degenek's last-ditch lunge.

Syrian talisman Al Soma was a constant threat and converted from the penalty spot when the referee adjudged Leckie to have fouled the Al Ahli striker in the box.

In the dying moments, Trent Sainsbury had a close-range header saved and Australia goalkeeper Mat Ryan clawed away a Moayad Al Ajan shot.

With the tie locked at 1-1, the two teams will now head to Sydney for the second leg at Stadium Australia on Tuesday, with the winners set to advance to a meeting with the fourth-ranked side from CONCACAF in the Inter-Continental Play-off.

match report from Fox Sports

A precious away goal has put the Socceroos in the driving seat to reach the final stage of World Cup qualifying after a 1-1 draw with Syria in Malaysia.

With five minutes to play on Thursday, Australia were on the cusp of a best-case-scenario away win in the first leg of their cut-throat play-off tie.

But a controversial late penalty goal to Omar al-Somah gave the war-ravaged nation the equaliser they craved to cancel Robbie Kruse's 40th-minute opener at Malacca's Hang Jebat Stadium.

Nevertheless, the vital goal and clean sheet could prove the difference when Ange Postecoglou's men host the second leg in Sydney on Tuesday. With that match in mind, coach Ange Postecoglou left Tom Rogic, Massimo Luongo and Jackson Irvine on the bench and gambled with the greenest members of his squad.

It paid off handsomely.

Uncapped Matt Jurman, thrust into a three-man defence alongside Trent Sainsbury and Milos Degenek, looked like an old hand.

Trimmed-down right-back Josh Risdon, capped just three times, was a hive of industry at right wing-back and relieved a high-playing Mat Leckie of his defensive responsibilities.

That re-jig bore fruit five minutes before the break, when Leckie blazed to the right byline and cut inside to turn a defender and let rip, Kruse timing his run perfectly to divert the shot home.

Under the weight of last month's failure to qualify directly for a fourth straight World Cup, a bobbly pitch and a sea of red to break down, the Socceroos had their work cut out.

The steady display yielded chances, Tomi Juric twice hitting the post in consecutive shots and Leckie somehow skying a sitter with ample time. Captain Mark Milligan, who endured extra attention all night, pulled the midfield strings alongside Aaron Mooy and unwound from 25m to force a full-stretch save from Syrian goalkeeper Ibrahim Alma.

But Syria brought the pace, and none were more searing than Al Somah. As Australia searched for a killer second goal, the danger man and his cohort amped up the pressure, slicing through the Socceroos' defence with increasing regularity and forcing a succession of corners and free-kicks. Mat Ryan, hardly called upon in the first stanza, was suddenly in the firing line and made a string of saves including one superb injury-time effort to deny Syria the win.

But there was nothing the Brighton and Hove Albion gloveman could do when Syria were awarded a penalty after contact from Leckie on Al Somah, who duly converted from the spot.

match report from the New Straits Times, 6/10/2017 (by AFP)

Australian players and media slammed the referee after Syria's controversial late penalty dented their hopes of reaching next year's World Cup following a 1-1 play-off draw in Melaka yesterday.

The Socceroos remain in the box seat ahead of Tuesday's second leg in Sydney, where the eventual winner will go into a final play-off with the CONCACAF federation's fourth-placed team.

But Omar al-Soma's 85th-minute equaliser raised harrowing memories of the 1997 play-offs, when Australia drew 1-1 with Iran in Tehran but were held 2-2 at home to go out on away goals.

Forward Robbie Kruse even claimed Iranian referee Alireza Faghani – who farcically gave him a yellow card when he went down with a serious injury in the 2015 Asian Cup final – was itching to give the penalty.

Australia were 1-0 up after Kruse's first-half goal but the crucial moment came when Mathew Leckie made contact with al-Soma in the box as they both went up for a header.

"It was evident to everyone it wasn't a penalty," Kruse told Australian media, adding: "You expect that from this referee, we've had him before.

"I think he wanted to give it as soon as he made contact."

Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou said he was "bemused" by the decision, while Leckie called it "very poor."

"It wasn't like I (made) body contact and tried to put him off, I actually won the header. I don't know what went through the ref's mind to give a penalty," Leckie said.

More worryingly for Australia, they were under the pump for much of the second half, when Soma had a header deflected on to the post and Omar Khribin saw a free kick flash just wide.

Postecoglou said his team had struggled with Malaysia's hot and humid conditions but that it would be a different story in Sydney, when he can call on a number of fresh players.

"We want to play really high-tempo and really go at them and test them," Postecoglou said, adding: "We won't make tactical changes but we've got some players that didn't play tonight who are in good form and good condition. We'll make some changes to the XI. When we're at home we want to attack aggressively. They've got to score a goal, they've got to open up a little bit at some point. We'll make sure we take advantage of that."

Australia, who joined the Asian Football Confederation in 2006, are attempting to reach their fourth straight World Cup and fifth overall.

Syria are striving to make their World Cup debut after a fairytale qualifying run that has defied the raging civil war in their home country.

World Cup Qualifying, Asian Play-off, 2nd. Leg														
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
10th. October 2017, 20.00			ANZ Stadium, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales (Stadium Australia)				Clear and good			18C		42136		
Australia..2 v. Syria..1 after extra time														
half time, Australia..1 v. Syria..1														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Ibrahim Alma					
6	DF	Matthew Jurman					4	DF	Jehad Khair Al-Baour					
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					3	MF	Moayad Samir Al-Ajan					
2	MF	Milos Degenek					8	MF	Mahmoud Al-Mawas		78	94		
3	MF	Bradley Smith				11	11	MF	Oday Abdul Al-Jafal				61	
5	MF	Mark Milligan		42			14	MF	Tamer Haj Mohamad					
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill (c)	13, 109				16	MF	Hamid Darwich Mido				75	
7	FW	Mathew Leckie		25			18	MF	Mohamad Zaher Al-Midani (c)					
10	FW	Robbie Kruse					9	FW	Omar Jihad Al-Somah	6				
14	FW	James Troisi				73	19	FW	Mardig Kevork Mardigian		48		90+1	
23	FW	Tomas Rogic				95	21	FW	Fahd "Fadi" Youssef Youssef					
SUBSTITUTES														
8	DF	Ryan McGowan					5	MF	Gabriel Somi					
9	FW	Tomi Juric		120		95	6	DF	Amro Jenyat					
11	MF	Craig Goodwin					10	MF	Firas Mohamad Al-Khatib				61	
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					12	DF	Israa Amer Hamwiah		88		75	
13	MF	Aaron Mooy				11	13	FW	Youssef Kalfa					
15	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini					15	MF	Alaa Al-Shbli					
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					17	MF	Osama Omari				90+1	
17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				73	22	GK	Mahmoud Al-Youssef					
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic					23	GK	Ahmad Madania					
19	DF	Joshua Risdon												
21	MF	Massimo Luongo												
22	FW	Jackson Irvine												
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Ayman Al Hkeem					
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager		Mohamad Fadi Al Dabbas					
Referee		Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)												
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)												
Assistant Referee 2		Jakhongir Saidov (Uzbekistan)												

Referee Ravshan Irmatov retired after 90 minutes and was replaced by the fourth official Tantashev Ilgiz (Uzbekistan) for the extra time period.

match report from the AFC

Australia will be Asia's representative in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 Inter-Continental Play-off after Tim Cahill scored an extra-time winner in a 2-1 victory over Syria at Stadium Australia on Tuesday that saw the Socceroos through with 3-2 on aggregate.

Omar Al Soma opened the scoring in the early stages to stun the home crowd before Cahill headed home his first of the night inside the quarter hour mark.

And, despite no further goals in regulation time, it was the veteran who had the final say after he nodded his 50th international goal past Ibrahim Alma in extra-time to confirm Australia's meeting with the fourth-ranked team from CONCACAF in November.

The tie had been tightly poised ahead of kick-off following the 1-1 draw in Melaka on Thursday, but Syria needed just six minutes to cancel out Australia's away goal advantage.

Tamer Haj Mohamad surged onto a loose pass and up the centre of the field, found Al Soma, who had bisected the Socceroos' back three with his run, and the Al Ahli striker fired home confidently past Mat Ryan.

The hosts did not need long to restore parity, though, as on the 13th minute Tomas Rogic found Mathew Leckie down the right and the winger bent in a superb cross that Cahill stooped to head across Alma into the net for his 49th strike in Australian colours.

Australia would go on to enjoy the lion's share of possession, but Alma and his backline held out to see the teams go in level at half-time.

After the restart, there were few clear-cut opportunities, although Leckie did see a header go narrowly wide and, with just over 20 minutes remaining, Rogic then drew a superb save from Alma after Leckie's cut-back but that was the closest either side went before the full-time whistle and the additional 30 minutes.

Syria suffered a blow early into extra-time after they went down to 10 men after Mahmoud Al Mawas received his second yellow card for a foul on Robbie Kruse.

Substitute Nikita Rukavytsya had a golden opportunity at the end of the first half of extra-time when the ball reached him unmarked in the Syrian area, but his volley was hammered straight at Alma.

In the second half of extra-time, Aaron Mooy found Kruse with a delightful pass and his cross was headed home by Cahill to complete his brace.

Omar Al Soma – the last minute hero against Islamic Republic of Iran – then went close when he fired a spectacular late free-kick against the upright – but it is Syria's 2018 World Cup dream that ends, while Australia's endures.

World Cup Qualifying, Inter-Continental Play-off, 1st. Leg													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
10th. November 2017, 16.00			Estadio Olímpico Metropolitano, San Pedro Sula, Honduras								30000		
Honduras..0 v. Australia..0													
half time, Honduras..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Donis Salatiel Escobar Izaguirre					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
3	DF	Henry Adalberto Figueroa Alonzo					6	DF	Matthew Jurman		47		
7	DF	Emilio Arturo Izaguirre Girón (c)					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
21	DF	Brayan Antonio Beckeles		19			20	DF	Trent Sainsbury		48		
23	DF	Johnny Eulogio Palacios Suazo		37			7	MF	Joshua Risdon		39		84
8	MF	Alfredo Antonio Mejía Escobar					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
11	MF	Carlos Ovidio Lanza Martínez				60	15	MF	Mile Jedinak (c)				
12	MF	Romell Samir Quioto Robinson					16	MF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
		Alexander Agustín López Rodríguez				66	21	MF	Massimo Luongo		87		
16	MF	Jorge Aarón Claros Juárez		78			9	FW	Tomi Juric				89
9	FW	Anthony Rubén Lozano Colón				73	22	FW	Jackson Irvine				74
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Kevin Hernandez					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
18	GK	Ricardo Gabriel Canales Lanza					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
2	DF	Félix Joan Crisanto Velásquez					2	MF	Milos Degenek				84
4	DF	Carlos Alfredo Sánchez Sánchez					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
5	DF	Ever Gonzalo Alvarado Sandoval					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
6	MF	Bryan Josué Acosta Ramos					5	MF	James Jeggo				
10	MF	Mario Roberto Martínez Hernández		90+3		66	11	MF	Craig Goodwin				
13	FW	Carlo Yair Costly Molina				73	14	FW	James Troisi				
14	FW	Oscar Boniek García Ramírez					17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsga				89
15	FW	Eddie Gabriel Hernández Padilla					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
17	FW	Michael Anthony Chirinos López				60	23	FW	Tommy Rogic				74
19	MF	Sergio Salvador Peña Zelaya											
Team Coach		Jorge Luis Pinto					Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Joel Freeme				
Referee		Daniele Orsato (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 1		Lorenzo Manganelli (Italy)											
Assistant Referee 2		Riccardo Di Fiore (Italy)											

match report from La Tribuna (Honduras)

Por el fútbol que mostraron, Australia fue el ganador ayer del primer partido de repechaje, porque se llevó el empate a cero goles contra Honduras.

Aunque un gol nos pondría en el mundial de Rusia 2018, también es cierto que están cuesta arriba, porque los australianos jugarán en casa y con su afición.

Como era de esperarse, Honduras entró con el pie en el acelerador, buscando el marco contrario; mientras Australia se paró en la mitad de la cancha hacia atrás, aguantando los embates catrachos.

Fue Ovidio Lanza quien tuvo la oportunidad de abrir el marcador, cuando Alex López le filtró una pelota al corazón del área, pero este no pudo controlar bien el balón, permitiendo que se lo arrebatara.

Poco a poco, los australianos fueron asentándose dentro del campo y comenzaron a manejar el partido, llegando seguido al área del marco de Donis Escobar.

A los 15 minutos, Luongo se metió en el área y sacó un zurdazo, que contuvo a medias el arquero Escobar, para que Lanza la mandara a la última línea.

Es así que a los 20 minutos se dio una jugada polémica, en una pelota en el aire que buscó el delantero Behich, quien recibió la falta del portero Escobar, sancionando el árbitro italiano Daniele Orsato lanzamiento penal, pero ante el reclamo de los hondureños, consultó con su línea, para cambiar su decisión y dar saque de puerta.

Hasta ese momento el dominio era de los "socceros", que a los 37 minutos fallaron la más clara oportunidad de anotar, cuando Juric dominó a Figueroa, y ante la salida de Escobar remató a un costado del marco.

El segundo tiempo no varió, aunque los hondureños intentaban contragolpear con balones largos, buscando a Lozano y Quioto, pero estos bien marcados, no podían hacer nada.

A los 53 minutos, el meta Donis Escobar salvó su marco, en cabezazo de Tim Juric, que desvió de manera espectacular al tiro de esquina.

Inmediatamente, el seleccionador catracho Jorge Luis Pinto ordenó el ingreso de Michael Chirinos, para tratar de "robarles" el esférico a los australianos.

Sin embargo, Chirinos estaba solo en ataque, ya que Lozano "desapareció" del encuentro, y Quioto tenía que bajar a recoger balones.

A los 60, Australia vuelve a perder el chance de marcar, cuando un centro desde la derecha, la pelota recorrió todo el área, sin que nadie llegara a rematarla.

Honduras un poco desesperada, también envió al campo a Mario Martínez y Carlo Costly, el primero que sirviera como lanzador y el segundo para que acompañara a Chirinos en ataque.

En una de esas oportunidades, Martínez habilitó a Costly, quien ingresó en diagonal al área, pero su potente remate la desvió el arquero Ryan, en lo que fue la más clara para los locales de anotar.

Con Australia manejando el partido y una Honduras desesperada por buscar el gol, así se consumieron los minutos hasta llegar el final del partido.

Ambas selecciones se enfrentarán el próximo miércoles 15 en Australia, donde uno clasificará al mundial de Rusia 2018.

– Ficha técnica:

Honduras: Donis Escobar; Brayan Beckeles, Johnny Palacios, Henry Figueroa, Emilio Izaguirre; Alfredo Mejía, Jorge Claros, Alex López (Mario Martínez m.65), Ovidio Lanza (Michael Chirinos m.59); Romell Quioto y Anthony Lozano (Carlo Costly m.72).

Seleccionador: Jorge Luis Pinto.

Australia: Mathew Ryan; Bailey Wright, Trent Sainsbury, Mathew Jurman, Massimo Luongo; Mile Jedinak, Aziz Behich, Aaron Moody, Jackson Irvine (Tomas Rogic m.74); Joshua Risdon (Milos Degenek m.83) y Tomi Juric (Nikita Rukavytsya m.88).

Seleccionador: Ange Postecoglou

Árbitro: el italiano Daniele Orsato amonestó a Brayan Beckeles, Johnny Palacios y Mario Martínez, de Honduras; y a Joshua Risdon, Mathew Jurman, Trent Sainsbury y Massimo Luongo, de Australia.

Incidencias: Partido de ida de la repesca para el Mundial de Rusia jugado en el Estadio Olímpico Metropolitano, de San Pedro Sula, norte de Honduras, ante más de 30.000 espectadores.

a loose translation is:-

From the football displayed, Australia was the winner yesterday of the first game of the play-off, because the tie resulted in zero goals against Honduras.

Although a goal would put us in the World Cup of Russia 2018, it is also true that it will be an uphill struggle, because the Australians will play at home and with their supporters.

As expected, Honduras started with the foot on the accelerator, looking for the oppositions' goal; while Australia stayed in the middle of the field playing backwards, withstanding the catracho attacks.

It was Ovidio Lanza who had the first opportunity to open the scoring, when Alex López slipped a ball into the heart of the area, but he could not control the ball, allowing it to be snatched away.

Little by little, the Australians settled down and began to manage the match, often arriving in Donis Escobar's penalty area.

After 15 minutes, Luongo got into the area and took a left-footed shot, which was partially stopped by goalkeeper Escobar, and Lanza put it over the goal line.

Then in the 20th minute there was a controversial play, a high ball sought the forward Behich, who was fouled by goalkeeper Escobar, the Italian referee Daniele Orsato awarded a penalty shot, but was met with protests from the Hondurans, he consulted with his linesman, and changed his decision and gave a goal kick.

The "socceros" dominated and at 37 minutes they missed the clearest chance to score, when Juric beat Figueroa, and Escobar saved onto the side of the framework.

The second half did not change, although the Hondurans tried to counter-attack with long balls, looking for Lozano and Quioto, but they well marked, could not do anything.

At 53 minutes, the goalkeeper Donis Escobar saved his goal from a Tomi Juric header, which was diverted spectacularly for a corner kick.

Immediately, the catracho coach Jorge Luis Pinto, ordered the entry of Michael Chirinos, to try to "steal" the ball from the Australians.

However, Chirinos was alone in attack, as Lozano had "disappeared" from the encounter, and Quioto had to go back to collect balls.

At 60 minutes, Australia again missed a chance to score, when a center from the right went over the entire area, without anyone coming to finish it.

Honduras was now desperate, and sent Mario Martínez and Carlo Costly onto the field, the first to serve as a midfielder and the second to accompany Chirinos in attack.

An opportunity was created when Martínez set-up Costly, who had entered diagonally into the area, but his powerful shot was deflected by goalkeeper Ryan, in what was the best scoring chance.

With Australia controlling the game and a desperate Honduras trying to find the goal, the minutes were consumed until the end of the game.

Both teams will meet on Wednesday 15th in Australia, where one will qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

Line-ups:-

Honduras: Donis Escobar; Brayan Beckeles, Johnny Palacios, Henry Figueroa, Emilio Izaguirre; Alfredo Mejía, Jorge Claros, Alex López (Mario Martínez 65 min.), Ovidio Lanza (Michael Chirinos 59 min.); Romell Quioto and Anthony Lozano (Carlo Costly 72 min.).

Coach: Jorge Luis Pinto.

Australia: Mathew Ryan; Bailey Wright, Trent Sainsbury, Mathew Jurman, Massimo Luongo; Mile Jedinak, Aziz Behich, Aaron Moody, Jackson Irvine (Tomas Rogic 74 min.); Joshua Risdon (Milos Degenek 83 min.) and Tomi Juric (Nikita Rukavytsya 88 min.).

Coach: Ange Postecoglou

Referee: Italian Daniele Orsato cautioned Brayan Beckeles, Johnny Palacios and Mario Martínez, from Honduras; and Joshua Risdon, Mathew Jurman, Trent Sainsbury and Massimo Luongo, from Australia.

Additional: First leg of the play-off for a place in the World Cup in Russia was played at the Metropolitan Olympic Stadium, in San Pedro Sula, northern Honduras, before more than 30,000 spectators.

match report from Foxsports

Honduras (AP) Honduras held Asian Cup champion Australia to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their intercontinental World Cup playoff, leaving a spot at Russia still very much at stake for both teams in next week's return leg at Sydney's Olympic stadium.

The Australians dominated the match and created the better scoring opportunities but Honduras defended resiliently at home and neither side was able to break the stalemate in a tense opening leg at the Estadio Olimpico Metropolitano on Friday.

Australian striker Tomi Juric missed two clear-cut chances to score – one in each half – and the Socceroos were left confused after Italian referee Daniele Orsato initially seemed to award them a penalty only to apparently change his mind after consulting with an assistant.

Despite the missed opportunities, Australia head coach Ange Postecoglou said he was thrilled with his team's overall performance and confident of winning the return leg on home soil.

"We're just missing that clinical edge, but overall I couldn't be happier," Postecoglou said in a post-match interview on Australia's Fox Sports. "I thought we were really solid defensively. On a difficult pitch we held our line really well apart from that chance at the end."

Postecoglou said his squad would be able to up the tempo on Wednesday in Sydney.

"We've got some fresh legs, we'll go hard, we'll put the pedal down and go as hard as we can," he said. Honduras "will find it hard to keep up with us."

Honduras, which pipped the United States for fourth spot in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) qualifying to book a spot in the intercontinental playoff, failed to take advantage of its home-ground advantage.

With the pitch breaking up and making it difficult for players to keep their footing, Los Catrachose spent most of the match defending, although they did create one good chance against the run of play late when veteran striker Carlo Costly broke free and forced Australian goalkeeper Matt Ryan to pull off a sharp save.

The Socceroos, who beat Syria over two-legs to finish fifth in the Asian qualifying section, were left to rue a string of missed opportunities and the absence of several key players to injuries, including veteran Tim Cahill, Australia's all-time leading scorer.

Juric fired wide of the target midway through the first half when he had only the Honduran goalkeeper Donis Escobar to beat, then let another golden opportunity go begging early in the second term when he directed Josh Risdon's perfectly-weighted cross straight at Escobar from close-range.

"We must take it as a positive," Socceroos skipper Mile Jedinak said. "In any other game, I think we win the game, we had the chances... but we take a lot of heart from it.

"In this World Cup qualifying campaign, we've had to deal with that a lot and tonight was no different. We must now focus on recovery and getting back to our home crowd."

Australia, bidding to qualify for the World Cup finals for the fourth straight time, was taking a charter flight back to Sydney. Honduras is aiming to make a third straight appearance at the sport's marquee tournament.

match report from SBS

The Socceroos have failed to capitalise on a glut of goalscoring chances in Honduras as they were held to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their World Cup play-off on Saturday morning (AEDT).

Australia dominated and had four shots on target to one but simply couldn't make them count in San Pedro Sula, with striker Tomi Juric fluffing the two best opportunities of the game.

It means the Socceroos must win Wednesday's second leg at ANZ Stadium in Sydney to book their spot at Russia 2018.

It might have been an easier equation if the Socceroos had only converted one of several golden chances.

Tomi Juric had the two best chances for Australia, scuffing a one-on-one opportunity before being denied by Donis Escobar in the second half.

Honduras had brief moments where they looked dangerous but rarely threatened in front of their fanatical home fans.

"It was a great performance and the result doesn't really reflect that," Postecoglou said.

"The only thing missing from our game was goals. Hopefully in the second leg we'll get those."

On a pitch more resembling a cow paddock, Australia came to play.

Postecoglou wasn't lying when he said he'd take his all-out attacking game to San Pedro Sula, committing players forward.

A forward-focused midfield monstered possession and allowed Jackson Irvine and Aaron Mooy to show their wares.

Returning skipper Mile Jedinak was often the sole midfielder backtracking to assist the back three.

They were caught unaware on four minutes, with Trent Sainsbury forced to come from the clouds to deny Antony Lozano with a sliding tackle as he prepared to take a one-on-one chance.

It would be Honduras' best chance of the game.

In hostile conditions and a muggy atmosphere, the inexperienced Socceroos brimmed with cleverness and spark.

Massimo Luongo danced through the box and forced Denis Escobar into a fine save on 11 minutes.

Then on 20 minutes, controversy.

A penalty to Australia when Escobar clattered Bailey Wright saw furious Honduran players surround the assistant referee.

Replays showed the defender was onside but referee Daniele Orsato overturned the decision after consulting his linesman.

The Socceroos headed to the break on top despite Tom Juric missing the chance of the first half, running past a faltering Johnny Palacios with a neat flick but striking wide.

At halftime, a dozen officials tended to enormous divots in the boggy pitch, earlier criticised by Postecoglou.

Opportunities continued to come.

Juric headed straight at Escobar before Risdon wriggled free only to send his cut-back sailing past two waiting attackers at the back post.

These were agonising chances that afforded the Central Americans a glimmer.

Australia stood tall to deny them twice in the last 10 minutes, with Mat Ryan saving Carlos Costly's powerful strike before Juric denied a free kick at the front post.

Posteoglou said considering the obstacles, his side deserved credit.

"The environment, the conditions, the crowd, I thought we handled them really well. The pitch was a obviously a challenge ... they were brave enough to keep going.

"We silenced the crowd a fair bit because of the way we played," he said.

"On our play, we deserved one or two goals.

"Now (heading to Sydney to) our conditions and the crowd behind us, some fresh legs, from that perspective we're in good shape."

World Cup Qualifying, Inter-Continental Play-off, 2nd. Leg													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. November 2017, 20.00			ANZ Stadium, Homebush Bay, Sydney, South Wales (Stadium Australia)				New Good					77060	
Australia..3 v. Honduras..1													
half time, Australia..0 v. Honduras..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					22	GK	Donis Salatiel Escobar Izaguirre Maynor Alexis Figueroa Róchez (c)				
6	DF	Matthew Jurman		3			3	DF			19		
8	DF	Bailey Wright					5	DF	Ever Gonzalo Alvarado Sandoval				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury		88			7	DF	Emilio Arturo Izaguirre Girón				42
5	MF	Mark Milligan				89	21	DF	Brayan Antonio Beckeles				
7	MF	Mathew Leckie		81			23	DF	Johnny Eulogio Palacios Suazo		84		
13	MF	Aaron Mooy		45+2			6	MF	Bryan Josué Acosta Ramos				
15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	53, 72(pk), 85(pk)				12	MF	Romell Samir Quioto Robinson				75
16	MF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					20	MF	Jorge Aarón Claros Juárez		57		
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				66	9	FW	Anthony Rubén Lozano Colón				
23	FW	Tommy Rogic				77	17	FW	Alberth Josué Elis Martínez	90+4			
SUBSTITUTES													
2	MF	Milos Degenek					1	GK	Kevin Hernandez				
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach					2	DF	Félix Joan Crisanto Velásquez				
9	FW	Tomi Juric				66	4	DF	Henry Adalberto Figueroa Alonzo				42, 73
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				77	8	MF	Alfredo Antonio Mejía Escobar				
11	MF	Joshua Risdon					10	MF	Mario Roberto Martínez Hernández				73
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					11	FW	Eddie Gabriel Hernández Padilla				75
14	FW	James Troisi				89	13	FW	Carlo Yair Costly Molina				
17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya					14	FW	Óscar Boniek García Ramírez Alexander Agustín López Rodríguez				
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic					15	MF					
19	DF	Ryan McGowan					16	MF	Carlos Ovidio Lanza Martínez				
21	MF	Massimo Luongo					18	GK	Ricardo Gabriel Canales Lanza				
22	FW	Jackson Irvine					19	MF	Sergio Salvador Peña Zelaya				
Team Coach		Ange Postecoglou					Team Coach		Jorge Luis Pinto				
Team Manager		Joel Freeme					Team Manager						
Referee		Nestor Pitana (Argentina)											
Assistant Referee 1		Hernán Pablo Maidana (Argentina)											
Assistant Referee 2		Juan Pablo Belatti (Argentina)											

match report from David Weiner, Foxsports

We're going to the World Cup.

There's few sweeter six word sentences you will ever read.

Drink it in. Believe it. Australia is off to a fourth consecutive finals.

We know where we were when John Aloisi scored from the spot. In years to come, we'll ask where were you when Mile Jedinak performed hat-trick heroics for his country to take us to the biggest stage of them all, in a 3-1 win over Honduras.

Fittingly, with the pressure valve lifting and anxiety growing at ANZ Stadium, it was the fearless beard at the heart of the key moments – two goals from the penalty spot, and a third with a deflection off a free-kick.

The away side scored a consolation with the last kick of the game, through Alberth Elis.

Mile Jedinak has played just 99 minutes of club football this year, but has put his body on the line in 180 commanding minutes of football in four days for his country, right when we needed it.

No wonder the Socceroos have lost just once in the last 21 internationals the skipper has played in – and that was a friendly (against England).

His free-kick took a wicked detour off Henry Figueroa in the 54th minute, before he coolly converted from the penalty spot in the 72nd minute, after Bryan Acosta handled an Aaron Mooy pass in the box, and 85th minute, when Robbie Kruse was chopped down.

It was a scrappy, tense, dogged contest but fittingly, a moment of magic from Tom Rogic was the game breaker, when his best surge of the game ended in a foul, setting the stage for the captain's set piece.

The mood among the 77,060 in gold shifted dramatically. The Socceroos had only scored five times in their last five qualifiers despite taking 90 shots.

With fans wondering where that decisive breakthrough would come from, finally, FINALLY, some good fortune for this side with via the torso of Figueroa, and the stray hand of Acosta.

As Australia held onto the lead, they were commanded by a quite brilliant display from Trent Sainsbury, with his captain bossing the game just in front of him. The threat of a counter attack remained, but despite Los Catrachos being much improved in the pressure they imposed, fortunately, the Hondurans were extremely limited with the ball going forward.

It wasn't the prettiest of affairs. In truth, it was nervy, tense, and at times, scrappy.

But it matters little right now.

No country has been asked to do more to get to a World Cup, and after a journey that started 882 days ago in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and taken in 2,010 minutes of heart in mouth World Cup qualifying action, Australia is the 31st confirmed starter for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. That's 14 wins, six draws and two losses. It's been earned.

The question now is: will Ange Postecoglou be the man in charge to take the country there.

THE MATCH

By halftime, the anxiety was palpable, heightened by a punctuated Socceroos performance and further frustrated as more than half a dozen Hondurans went down for prolonged periods, while they broke up plenty of play with some robust defending.

If Australia's hope in San Pedro Sula was to weather the early storm, Honduras passed their equivalent test after their long flight from Central America. They didn't just survive in Sydney, but exposed Australia's jitters in a nervy, scrappy and tense opening 45 minutes.

Postecoglou was waving, exasperated when his side looked back instead of forward, while Luis Jorge Pinto danced up and down his box.

There were times Australia's one-touch football and movement looked promising, but with Los Catrachos' energy and press in midfield, the Roos couldn't consistently build any consistent momentum.

Mooy and Behich combined without a finished product down the left, but the returning Leckie and a hard working Cahill were devoid of service as Milligan and Rogic struggled to assert themselves on the contest.

Australia had 72 per cent of the ball, but it was not at the energy required, yielding only 11 balls into the area.

Captain Jedinak was the director sitting just in front of the three central defenders, sometimes dropping into the backline, but despite having the rest of his teammates ahead of him to try and chop up Honduras' defensive shape and break the lines, the Hondurans dealt with everything. It was too predictable, slow and players like Rogic were well marshalled given the space between Australia's rearguard and creative targets.

A number of Hondurans had stayed down in the first half – although Emilio Izaguirre was legitimately injured and went off for Henry Figueroa – so when just two minutes were added, groans rung out across the stadium.

That may have been just a smokescreen for the prevailing frustration, with Rogic, unable to turn a Behich cross past Escobar, enjoying the best chance of the first period.

He may have had the most chances this World Cup qualifying campaign; he may not have been able to make the breakthrough himself, but when his country needed him, he was, indeed, the game breaker.

Then, it was over to his skipper.

The inspiration.

match report from SBS

Captain Mile Jedinak fired Australia to the World Cup with a deflected goal and two more from the spot in a 3-1 victory over Honduras in their second leg inter-continental play-off on Wednesday.

The Socceroos had been held to a goalless draw in the first leg in San Pedro Sula last week but had a trio of second-half strikes from the skipper in Sydney to thank for securing their ticket to Russia.

Jedinak's first came courtesy of a deflected free-kick, before Tim Cahill went close to doubling the advantage with an excellent header that bounced off the top of the crossbar.

But Cahill's close call would not prove costly for Ange Postecoglou's men, who soon left Honduras needing two goals as Jedinak punished a Bryan Acosta handball by firing home from the penalty spot.

Honduras' desperate push for a response left them exposed at the back, and Jedinak was on hand to convert his second spot-kick of the night after Johnny Palacios brought down the advancing Robbie Kruse.

The result, which also saw Alberth Elis net for Honduras in second-half stoppage time, means Australia will compete at a fourth consecutive World Cup - a huge relief for Postecoglou after his side finished third to Japan and Saudi Arabia in the group stage.

Nevertheless, the coach's future remains uncertain after he was heavily linked with the exit regardless of the Socceroos' qualification fate.

Matthew Jurman was perhaps lucky to still be on the pitch after clumsily going in over the ball when making a challenge on Elis in the second minute, getting away with a yellow card to avoid the earliest of showers.

A tight - occasionally tetchy - encounter ensued, with Aaron Mooy's testing low free-kick from the left wing, which was pushed clear by goalkeeper Donis Escobar, as close as either side came to breaking the deadlock in the opening half an hour.

Escobar was on hand once more eight minutes from the interval to keep out a drilled Tom Rogic strike from an Aziz Behich cutback - the hosts dominating possession but creating few goalscoring opportunities.

Honduras lost Emilio Izaguirre to injury before the break and his replacement, Henry Figueroa, was involved in the Socceroos' opener.

A Jedinak free-kick eight minutes into the second half deflected off the defender and beyond Escobar into the net.

Cahill - back in the starting XI after shaking off an ankle injury - then headed onto the top of the crossbar as Australia looked to put the match to bed.

Australia's place in the World Cup was all but certain when, after Acosta was deemed to have handled in the area, Jedinak placed a wonderful penalty low to Escobar's right.

The visitors rallied but Kruse found a gap in their defensive line to race clear on goal, only to be hacked down by Palacios before he could pull the trigger.

Jedinak stepped up to convert the penalty and crown a memorable night for himself and Australia, although Elis did register a consolation goal as the celebrations got under way in the stands.

2018

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
23rd. March 2018, 18.00			Ullevaal Stadion, Oslo, Norway				Clear			1C		5871	
Norway..4 v. Australia..1													
half time, Norway..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Rune Jarstein					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
14	DF	Omar Elabdellaoui					8	DF	Bailey Wright				52
2	DF	Birger Meling					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
3	DF	Kristoffer Ajer					5	DF	Mark Milligan				
4	DF	Tore Reginiussen	48				2	DF	Milos Degenek				
19	MF	Markus Henriksen					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				61
11	MF	Mohamed Elyounoussi				87	7	MF	Mathew Leckie				85
13	MF	Fedrik Midtsjø				78	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
8	MF	Stefan Johansen		76			22	MF	Jackson Irvine	19			61*
21	FW	Bjorn Johnsen					24	MF	Dimitri Petratos				74
7	FW	Ola Kamara	36, 57, 90+1				11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				67
SUBSTITUTES													
22	GK	Sten Grytebust					12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
12	GK	Ørjan Nyland					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
17	DF	Martin Linnes					3	DF	James Meredith				
6	DF	Håvard Nordtveit					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
5	DF	Sigurd Rosted					26	DF	Aleksandar Susnjar				52
16	DF	Jonas Svensson					25	MF	Joshua "Josh" Brillante				
15	MF	Iver Fossum				87	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				74
18	MF	Ole Selnaes					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				61
10	FW	Tarik Elyounoussi					23	FW	Tomas Rogic				61*
23	FW	Fredrik Gulbrandsen					17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				85
20	MF	Mats Møller Dæhli					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
9	MF	Martin Ødegaard				78	9	FW	Tomi Juric				67
Team Coach		Lars Lagerbäck					Team Coach		Lambertus "Bert" van Marwijk				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Andreas Ekberg (Sweden)											
Assistant Referee 1		Stefan Hallberg (Sweden)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mehmet Culum (Sweden)											

match report from SBS

The Dutch manager may be thankful he is only on a short-term contract, witnessing an uninspiring display from his players in Oslo, despite going ahead through Jackson Irvine less than 20 minutes into the match.

The Hull City man's opener was cancelled out before half-time by the lively Ola Kamara, while a defensive lapse by Irvine left Tore Reginiussen open in the box to score Norway's second.

LA Galaxy striker Kamara doubled his own tally before making it a treble in stoppage time.

Norway made the brighter start at a sparsely populated Ullevaal Stadion, with Fredrik Midtsjo and Kamara both trying their luck from the edge of the box in the early stages.

Norway almost made it four when he played a superb throughball for Bjorn Johnsen, but the ADO Den Haag forward could only fire straight at Socceroos keeper Mathew Ryan.

When the opening goal arrived, it came very much against the run of play with the home side looking much the better team.

Irvine rose to meet an Aaron Mooy corner with a header that was too powerful for Norway goalkeeper Rune Jarstein to deal with.

Jarstein showed greater command of his penalty area when he rushed out to collect Mooy's next corner delivery, and Norway soon had the goal their first-half showing merited.

Mohamed Elyounoussi's cutback from the left byline set up an unmarked Kamara to finish from six yards out, sending the sides in level at the break.

Three minutes into the second period Norway took control of the match as Irvine strayed out of position at a free-kick, allowing Reginiussen the space to head home unmarked.

Kamara's impressive display then yielded a second goal, when he slotted into the bottom-right corner after being played in by Markus Henriksen, before the former Columbus Crew striker cut inside to rifle home a sixth goal in five starts for club and country.

Van Marwijk's focus now switches to a friendly clash with Colombia at Fulham's Craven Cottage on Wednesday morning.

match report from AAP

Ola Kamara scored a hat trick as Norway dealt Bert van Marwijk a rude awakening in his first match as Australia coach with the Socceroos slumping to a dismal 4-1 loss in Oslo on Friday.

The hosts, who sit 20 places below the 37th-ranked Socceroos, dominated from the start and were full value for their win in front of a sparse crowd at a bitterly cold Ullevaal Stadium.

Three goals from the LA Galaxy's Kamara and a header from Tore Reginiussen secured the emphatic victory after Jackson Irvine had given the Socceroos the lead with a 19th-minute header.

Van Marwijk handed debuts to Dimi Petratos and Andrew Nabbout in a 4-2-3-1 formation with Bailey Wright named in an uncustomary right-back role.

Norway made all the early running and should have opened the scoring through Bjorn Johnsen who was put clear by skipper Stefan Johansen but he shot straight at Mat Ryan.

Australia offered little in attack but in a rare foray, Nabbout won a corner which was subsequently swung in by Aaron Mooy and Irvine rose unmarked to nod home his second international goal.

Despite the early setback the home side continued to press forward in impressive fashion. The pace of highly rated Mohamed Elyounoussi on the left flank was constant threat to the Socceroos' defence and he was the architect of Kamara's equaliser.

The Basel winger, who scored against Manchester City in a recent Champions League game, skipped past Mark Milligan and his low cross was met first time by Kamara for an easy finish.

Van Marwijk opted against any changes at half-time and before he could shuffle his pack, the hosts scored twice in nine minutes to effectively seal the contest.

Centre-back Reginiussen was given the freedom of Oslo to head past Ryan after Irvine misjudged Johansen's inswinging free kick seven minutes after the break.

Kamara then finished emphatically after latching onto a terrible pass from Ryan intended for Mile Jedinak and fired past the Brighton keeper.

Van Marwijk then made a flurry of changes but it made little difference as Lars Lagerback's side continued to dominate.

Bjorn Johnsen should have extended Norway's lead with a free header that he put over the bar after losing Milligan in the box.

But it was Kamara who had the final word two minutes from time with a curling, low finish to complete his hat-trick and cap off a miserable day for van Marwijk's side who face 13th-ranked Colombia in London on Tuesday.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
27th. March 2018, 20.00			Craven Cottage, London, England									18664	
Columbia..0 v. Australia..0													
half time, Columbia..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	David Ospina Ramirez					12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				46
4	DF	Santiago Arias Naranjo					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
3	DF	Óscar Fabián Murillo Murillo				53	2	DF	Milos Degenek				
2	DF	Cristián Eduardo Zapata Valencia					5	DF	Mark Milligan				
26	DF	Johan Andrés Mojica Palacio					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
5	MF	Wilmar Enrique Barrios Terán					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				90+1
8	MF	Abel Enrique Aguilar Tapias				46*	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				
21	MF	Andrés Mateus Uribe Villa				70	7	MF	Mathew Leckie				88
10	MF	James David Rodríguez Rubio				83	23	MF	Tomas Rogic				82
7	FW	Carlos Arturo Bacca Ahumada				75	11	MF	Andrew Nabbout				73
9	FW	Radamel Falcao García Zárate				46	9	FW	Tomi Juric				63
SUBSTITUTES													
19	FW	Duván Esteban Zapata Banguero				46	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				63
17	FW	Yimmi Javier Chará Zamora				70	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				73
20	MF	Giovanni Andrés Moreno Cardona				83	14	MF	James Troisi				82
25	MF	Jefferson Andrés Lerma Solís				46*	17	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				88
27	FW	José Heriberto Izquierdo Mena				75	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				90+1
13	DF	Yerry Fernando Mina González				53	18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				46
6	MF	Carlos Alberto Sánchez Moreno					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
12	GK	Camilo Andrés Vargas Gil					3	DF	James Meredith				
14	FW	Luis Fernando Muriel Fruto					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
15	MF	Juan Fernando Quintero Paniagua					24	MF	Dimitri Petratos				
16	FW	Miguel Ángel Borja Hernández					25	MF	Joshua "Josh" Brillante				
18	DF	Frank Yusty Fabra Palacios					26	DF	Aleksandar Susnjar				
22	DF	Bernardo José Espinosa Zúñiga											
23	DF	Davinson Sánchez Mina											
24	MF	Victor Danilo Cantillo Jiménez											
Team Coach		Jose Pekerman					Team Coach		Lambertus "Bert" van Marwijk				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Robert Madley (England)											
Assistant Referee 1		Harry Lennard (England)											
Assistant Referee 2		Edward Smart (England)											

match report from Foxsports

Danny Vukovic has had to wait 12 years to get on the field for the Socceroos after his first call-up came in 2006.

On his belated debut, on his 33rd birthday, he became the oldest Australian debutant in 53 years, and he certainly made the most of it, writing the headline for this game with a chaotic couple of moments late in Australia's confidence boosting 0-0 draw with Colombia in London.

The custodian, who came on for Brad Jones at half-time, gave away a penalty with a moment of madness, scything down Miguel Borja in the box in the 86th minute.

Then, he made amends immediately, diving low to his left to deny Colombia what would have been the winner.

Vukovic told Fox Sports: "I won't forget (it any time soon). I was disappointed to give the penalty away and the main thing was I saved it in the end. We rode our luck a bit tonight ... but it's a great result especially (after Saturday)."

Vukovic has ridden highs and lows on and off the park since making his A-League debut with Central Coast Mariners way back in 2005.

"I have (waited a long time)," he said of his debut, which also included a sharp save off a James Rodriguez header as well in an eventful debut.

"My first Socceroos camp was in 06. A long time ago. I've been waiting a long time. Never given up. So happy, I cannot put it into words. It's been a tough road, but playing some of my best football now, overseas, really enjoying myself. Next step is to try get into this World Cup squad.

Captain Mile Jedinak hailed the veteran custodian, but also admitted the confidence boosting nature of the result.

"We let ourselves down the other night," he told Fox Sports. "We wanted to put it right. We got to grips with what we're trying to do and in the end, (got) a bit of luck, Danny with a fantastic save. He deserves it. He's been working his socks off and I'm really pleased for him, I've known him for a long time."

It was a confidence boosting clean sheet, and draw, for Bert van Marwijk's side in a much improved display played at a more vigorous tempo than in the embarrassing outing in Oslo on Saturday.

However, they rode their luck, with Colombia the more dangerous side in the second-half.

The clean sheet owes as much to Borja's incredible wastefulness as it does to Australia's defence, which was stretched over the last half hour as the South Americans upped the ante.

The attacker, who plays in Brazil with Sociedade Esportiva Palmeiras, inexplicably botched at least half a dozen gilt edged chances through a combination of being off-side, hitting the woodwork, and almost comical profligacy.

Massimo Luongo was the clear star for the Socceroos, with an influential display in a hectic middle of the park. The Queens Park Rangers midfielder replaced injured Huddersfield midfielder Aaron Mooy in the XI, and continued his fine recent form for his club and country with an all-round busy outing.

He produced one particularly impressive moment of magic, dancing through the heart of Colombia's defence, that had viewers ogling and would have been one of the finest Socceroos goals had he found a finish to match.

The intent, energy and wherewithal across the park was immediately an improvement on the display in van Marwijk's underwhelming opening game. Playing the world No.13 in a vibrant atmosphere in the quaint Craven

Cottage helped stir the green and gold, but so did the Socceroos' attitude.

Having Tom Rogic starting as the No.10 certainly helped; the Celtic star's technical ability meant the green and gold were more proficient on the ball, and he provided an option for Luongo, playing as a No.6, to link the lines on the field.

"He's mixed his game up nicely, tonight. He's played with the game in front of him but broken from that holding midfield position, also," Andy Harper enthused about Luongo in commentary for Fox Sports.

At half-time, former Socceroos midfielder and captain Paul Okon added: "Rogic picks up good positions as a No.10, he gives you that balance. We've already seen that with his link up play whenever Luongo looks forward, to pick him up between the lines."

The Luongo-Rogic combination was important because otherwise it was a helter skelter friendly with little pattern or rhythm to the contest, especially during a largely chanceless first-half that saw plenty of fouls and frantic football.

After Radamel Falcao found himself in the front row of the crowd, chasing a ball to the byline, and James Rodriguez whacked a fan in the crowd with a frustrated kick of the ball after missing from point blank range, the best chance fell to Tomi Juric. The Australia No.9 rolled Cristian Zapata, before driving a shot just past David Ospina's far post.

Brad Jones started in goal in his first involvement with the national side in four years, while Mark Milligan and Milos Degenek got the chance to make amends for their outing in Oslo with another outing in the heart of defence. Both were more comfortable thanks to Colombia's more technical style of play, having struggled with the pace and power Norway turned to.

Jones was one of five changes; Luongo for Mooy, Josh Risdon came in for Bailey Wright, Rogic took Jackson Irvine's No.10 role, while Andrew Nabbout shifted into Dimitri Petratos' position to allow Tomi Juric up top.

It was clear that this was a genuine audition for the Urawa Red Diamonds acquisition, signed from Newcastle Jets. It was a difficult outing for him as a No.9 against Norway, but with time on both flanks in London, he was bright and energetic.

Both managers rung the changes in the second-half; most notably, Tim Cahill got half an hour for the Australians.

match report from SBS

Van Marwijk's first game in charge of the Socceroos in Oslo proved to be one to forget, as the reality of how unprepared his team were for the World Cup became abundantly clear.

But Wednesday's (AEDT) entertaining 0-0 draw with Colombia suggested positive strides have already been made.

Van Marwijk replaced Ange Postecoglou in January - the former coach leaving his post despite guiding Australia through 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification - but has had limited time to work with his players.

In the wake of the Norway hammering, some Australian players pointed to the team's poor interpretation of van Marwijk's tactics.

Both Massimo Luongo and Tomi Juric made similar comments, suggesting they were too literal when it came to adapting to a more direct style than they had been used to under Postecoglou.

Luongo felt Australia's players followed van Marwijk's directions too closely, relinquishing any creativity in favour of playing direct and on the counter attack.

Against a considerably more talented Colombia side on Wednesday (AEDT), there was plenty to indicate the interim period on the training pitch had been put to good use.

While they were by no means outstanding, Australia looked solid at the back for the most part and had more about them in the final third – a lovely move involving Luongo and Andrew Nabbout at the start of the second half evidence of this.

Luongo, brought into the midfield on the day, made a significant difference with his craft and energy, while Tom Rogic added some creativity.

There was also far more adventure on display out wide, with left-back Aziz Behich getting forward well and often, and the direct approach from Friday less obvious.

Colombia were praised by France coach Didier Deschamps for their "aggression" when coming from 2-0 down to win 3-2 at the Stade de France on Saturday (AEDT), but Australia certainly matched Los Cafeteros in that respect at Craven Cottage.

Jose Pekerman's side increased the pressure during the final 35 minutes and really tested Australia, going very close late on when Miguel Borja hit the post with a towering header and then seeing an 85th-minute penalty saved by Danny Vukovic.

They also highlighted a few areas in which Australia will need to improve.

Josh Risdon at right-back had supreme difficulty with Carlos Bacca and Johan Mojica, while their transition between defence and attack needs work, particularly in terms of passing out from the back.

But even then, with Colombia pressing hard for a winner, a moment of Luongo inspiration created another Socceroos chance, as he danced past a couple of tackles inside the box and shot at David Ospina.

Granted, for Australia to make a lasting impression at the World Cup they will need to be more clinical, but holding a talented Colombia side is certainly a step in the right direction following the Oslo debacle.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
1st. June 2018,			NV Arena, Sankt Pölten, Austria				Fine					665	
Czech Republic..0 v. Australia..4													
half time, Czech Republic..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
16	GK	Tomas Koubek					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
26	DF	Jakub Jugas	80(og)				5	DF	Mark Milligan				
3	DF	Tomáš Kalas					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury (c)				
22	DF	Filip Novák					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
18	DF	Jan Bořil					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				76
7	MF	Antonín Barák				57	21	MF	Massimo Luongo				
10	MF	Josef Husbauer					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
8	MF	Vladimír Darida					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				73
11	FW	Michael Krmenčík				45	7	MF	Mathew Leckie	32, 72			84
13	FW	Jan Kopic				83	11	MF	Andrew Nabbout	54			61
19	FW	Patrik Schick				75	23	MF	Tomas Rogic				66
SUBSTITUTES													
1	GK	Tomáš Vaclík					2	DF	Milos Degenek				76
5	DF	Vladimír Coufal					3	DF	James Meredith				
6	MF	Jan Sýkora				57	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
12	MF	Tomáš Hořava				83	6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
14	MF	Jakub Jankto		79		45	9	FW	Tomi Juric				
15	MF	Tomáš Souček					12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
20	MF	Michal Trávník					14	MF	James Troisi				
21	FW	Josef Šural				75	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)				
23	GK	Jiří Pavlenka					17	FW	Nikita Rukavyt'sya				
97	DF	Václav Jemelka					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
							22	MF	Jackson Irvine				66
							24	MF	Dimitrios Petratos				73
							25	MF	Joshua "Josh" Brillante				
							26	MF	Daniel Arzani				84
							27	DF	Fran Karačić				
							30	FW	Jamie Maclaren				61
Team Coach		Karel Pešice					Team Coach		Lambertus "Bert" van Marwijk				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Alexander Harkam (Austria)											
Assistant Referee 1		Andreas Witschnigg (Austria)											
Assistant Referee 2		Robert Steinacher (Austria)											

match report from ESPN

Australia recorded a morale-boosting win over Czech Republic in Austria on Friday, though the 4-0 scoreline -- with Mat Leckie scoring twice -- did flatter the Socceroos somewhat.

Of course, with a relatively new boss at the helm in former Netherlands boss Bert van Marwijk, the greatest interest around this World Cup warm-up game was always going to be the starting lineup rather than the result. With regular skipper Mile Jedinak resting, having joined the squad late following Aston Villa's Championship play-off final loss to Fulham, Van Marwijk opted for Massimo Luongo alongside Aaron Mooy in central midfield, with Tom Rogic in a more advanced role.

Trent Sainsbury took the captain's armband in Jedinak's absence, and he was partnered by usual midfield fulcrum Mark Milligan in central defence. Meanwhile, there was another surprise at right-back with Western Sydney Wanderers' Josh Risdon getting the nod.

Perhaps it was those few shock inclusions, or the fact that the team had been focusing predominantly on defence since arriving at their pre-World Cup camp in Turkey, but Australia lacked any sort of attacking cohesion in the opening stages.

Indeed, Czech Republic certainly enjoyed the better of the first half exchanges, and should have gone ahead on 21 minutes when Antonin Barak blazed his shot well over the bar from a couple of yards out.

Arguably against the run of play, the Socceroos took the lead in the 32nd minute. Importantly, the chance came when Rogic got on the ball with plenty of time for the first occasion in the contest. Rogic played in Risdon beautifully down the right, allowing Robbie Kruse to nod it across goal for Leckie to tap in.

The second half was a completely different story. Australia dominated in almost every aspect of the game, doubling their lead not long after the half-time break through Nabbout, who surely secured his place in the World Cup squad.

Leckie then sealed his brace when Mooy won the ball on halfway and pushed forward quickly to release the Hertha Berlin winger, before the fourth goal came via a Jakub Jugas own goal from a Milos Degenek cross.

Most pleasing for Van Marwijk will have been that all three second-half goals came from mistakes made by Czech players under pressure from the Socceroos' hard pressing.

Less certain, though, is which fringe players will miss the cut for the 23-man squad to be named in the coming days. Striker Jamie Maclaren failed to impress in his second-half cameo, while Tomi Juric, who did not feature in this match, must prove his fitness before booking his ticket to Russia.

There may be more hope for Melbourne City starlet Daniel Arzani, who provides an element of dynamism that could prove valuable for Van Marwijk off the bench. If Arzani is included, it could be the end of the line for the

likes of Dimi Petratos and Nikita Rukavytsya.

All of that will be revealed soon, of course. For now, Van Marwijk and his charges will rest well, knowing they have made decent strides toward where they need to be in order to face the might of France in Kazan on June 16.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
9th. June 2018, 17.30			Groupama Arena, Budapest, Hungary									10091	
Hungary..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Hungary..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Péter Gulácsi				46	1	GK	Mathew Ryan				46
4	DF	Tamás Kádár (c)	90+2(og)				5	DF	Mark Milligan				
3	DF	Paulo Vinicius					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury (c)	88(og)			
2	DF	János Szabó					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
14	DF	Gergő Lovrencsics				73	19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
15	MF	László Kleinheisler				66	23	MF	Tomas Rogic				64
10	MF	Krisztián Vadócz					21	MF	Massimo Luongo				46**
16	MF	Jozsef Varga		44			13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
9	FW	Adám Szalai				62	11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				46*
11	FW	Roland Sallai				84	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				73
17	FW	Roland Varga					7	FW	Mathew Leckie		22		
SUBSTITUTES													
12	GK	Dénes Dibusz				46	12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				46
5	DF	Attila Fiola		78		73	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				64
18	MF	Márton Eppel				66	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak		76		46**
13	FW	Dániel Bóde				62	9	FW	Tomi Juric				46*, 80
27	MF	Kevin Varga				84	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				80
22	GK	Ádám Kovácsik					26	MF	Daniel Arzani	74			73
28	DF	Bence Tóth					3	DF	James Meredith				
21	DF	Zsolt Korcsmár					6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
20	DF	Richárd Guzmics					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
8	MF	Ádám Nagy					24	MF	Dimitrios Petratos				
26	MF	Dominik Szoboszlai					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
23	MF	Dániel Gazdag					30	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
Team Coach		Georges Leekens					Team Coach		Lambertus "Bert" van Marwijk				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Matej Jug (Slovenia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Manuel Vidali (Slovenia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Tomislav Pospeh (Slovenia)											

match report from ESPN

Three defensive mistakes led to three goals in Australia's final friendly on the road to the World Cup, with Daniel Arzani scoring a debut international goal in a 2-1 win over Hungary in Budapest. Arzani struck in the 74th minute before Trent Sainsbury's late own goal appeared to salvage a draw for Hungary.

Jackson Irvine's determination ensured the Socceroos would come out on top as his cross into the legs of Hungary captain Tamas Kadar trickled home past goalkeeper Denes Dibusz.

Dibusz, in just his second appearance for Australia, was already to blame for Arzani's opener.

The 19-year-old scored within a minute of coming into the fray at the Groupama Arena, striking from long range.

Un sighted or otherwise, Dibusz completely missed the bouncing effort to give Australia the lead.

Arzani simply and calmly walked to the corner to celebrate, touching the ground and embracing his teammates.

The goal changed the pace of the otherwise tepid encounter.

In sight of a third-straight clean sheet, Sainsbury's headed back-pass wrong-footed substitute keeper Brad Jones to trickle into the net for an embarrassing equaliser.

As Hungary were set to salvage a draw, Irvine chased down a long ball in the 92nd minute to produce another defensive kerfuffle.

The result continues Australia's momentum on the road to Russia, where tournament heavyweights France await on June 16.

But it was far from a vintage display.

Australia coach Bert van Marwijk summed it up in one word when asked to describe the performance.

"Bad," he said. "Especially in the first half.

"But you saw after the 1-1 the team, that they didn't think about 1-1. They wanted to win. That's positive."

Fielding the same XI that beat Czech Republic 4-0 a week earlier, coach Bert van Marwijk did not see a similar performance.

The Socceroos showed low intensity, unable to penetrate or get creative force Tom Rogic on the ball.

Rogic had just two touches in the opening 40 minutes, when Australia's best chances fell to Robbie Kruse.

Kruse volleyed Aaron Mooy's curved cross onto the crossbar but was flagged offside, and then skied Mat Leckie's cut-back over the goal.

Hungary's attacks were more opportunistic than well-orchestrated.

Their most spectacular effort, a first-time volley from Laszlo Kleinheisler, would have contended for goal of the year but dipped onto the crossbar before bouncing out.

Mat Ryan was on hand to make a one-on-one save from Adam Szalai to preserve a deadlock into the break.

Rogic's dribbling provided an outlet for Australia after half-time, when Mile Jedinak and Tomi Juric entered the fray.

It took another substitute, Irvine, to get a shot on target after an hour of play before Arzani set the Socceroos on their way to another win.

"Morally, it was good," Van Marwijk said. "We won, but I already told my players I wasn't satisfied."

match report (in English) from the Hungarian Football Federation

Captain Tamás Kádár's 92nd-minute own goal dented an otherwise excellent personal performance and ensured Hungary lost 2-1 at home to FIFA 2018 World Cup participants Australia in the Groupama Aréna in Budapest on Saturday evening.

The hosts had played relatively well for most of the match and created several clear chances, especially in an encouraging first-half display, but it seemed as if Australian youngster Daniel Arzani's shot which crept past fellow substitute Dénes Dibusz in the Hungary goal might give the away team a narrow victory. Visiting captain Trent Sainsbury sent an 88th-minute header past his own keeper to restore parity though before Kádár's even later intervention.

Hungary head coach George Leekens had made three changes to the team that started Wednesday's 1-1 draw in Belarus, Krisztián Vadócz, József Varga and Roland Sallai replacing Ádám Nagy, Ákos Elek and Balázs Dzsudzsák in the midfield area, his team starting in a 4-2-3-1 formation.

The first opportunity of the match fell to the visitors inside the opening minute when Mathew Leckie's header looped over the bar following a left-wing short-corner routine and Hungary's first chance came soon after when Roland Sallai, making his first national-team start on his eighth appearance, smartly took down a raking cross-field pass, tricked his way to the byline and stood up a cross which was only headed half-clear, the ball dropping for Gergő Lovrencsics to volley down into the turf and towards goal, only for a visiting defender to avert the danger.

Sallai and left-back János Szabó were showing signs of a good understanding down the left side and the two combined in the 11th minute to set Szabó free close the byline, but his driven cross evaded everyone.

Leekens' team were certainly looking to play with purpose and intent, Vadócz's close-range volley from a tight angle blocked by the back of Joshua Risdon as the away team weathered the hosts' early storm. Australia haven't qualified the World Cup by accident though and they soon came back into the match, Leckie firing the ball low inside from the right-wing for Robbie Kruse arriving roughly in line with the near right post, but his shot from 13 metres was blazed wastefully over the crossbar.

Meanwhile, Sallai continued to impress and his spectacular 23rd-minute bicycle kick following an outswinging free-kick towards the left side of the Australia penalty area nearly turned into the perfect back-post cross, but an Australian defender was well-placed to reach the ball first and clear. A tigerish László Kleinheisler was another to feature prominently in the central exchanges, his waspish aggression in running 40 metres to regain possession after he'd been tackled in the 25th minute perfectly exemplifying his combative midfield talents.

Kleinheisler's partner in central midfield, Krisztián Vadócz, had been absent from the international scene for seven years before last Wednesday's draw in Brest, but he looked at home again immediately, dispossessing Mark Milligan and striding towards goal before slipping the ball inside for the arriving Ádám Szalai. Australian goalkeeper Matty Ryan made a wonderful block with his left leg though to deny the Hoffenheim striker from a central position 12 metres out, Szalai's follow-up then hacked clear from under the crossbar by a covering defender.

There was more positivity to come for the home fans in the 36th minute when Kleinheisler volleyed a headed clearance wickedly with his left foot 25 metres from goal but he was unlucky to see his dipping effort only bounce onto the crossbar and over the Australian net. Kruse and Aaron Moy both missed the target with long-range efforts as half-time drew near but in truth it would have been very harsh on the hosts if they hadn't at least come in level at half-time. Indeed, had Risdon not cleared Hungary captain Tamás Kádár's diving header from a right-wing Roland Varga corner off the line in stoppage time, Leekens' men would have led at the break.

Hungary made only one change at half-time, goalkeeper Dénes Dibusz replacing Péter Gulácsi between the posts, but he wasn't called upon in the opening minutes of the second period despite a measure of dominance for the Antipodean nation. At the other end, Lovrencsics's right-wing cross set up a difficult stooping chance for Szalai at the near post, his header finding the side-netting. That was the forward's last action of the game as Ferencváros favourite Dániel Bóde stepped onto the turf he calls home at club level.

Lovrencsics and Leckie both rued the inaccuracy of their drives from distances as stalemate endured but at least the home team showed every intention of chasing the opening goal, Kleinheisler making way for Honvéd striker Márton Eppel as Hungary switched to 4-4-2. It must be said there were opportunities to exploit for both sides, Australia substitute Jackson Irvine going close twice within a minute, his piledriver from Leckie's pullback stinging the palms of Dibusz before the Hull City attacker header the resultant corner over the bar.

The longer the match went on, the more it seemed as if it would take a moment of magic or a mistake to break the deadlock and the latter is exactly what happened, another Australian replacement Daniel Arzani's bouncing but seemingly innocuous right-footed shot from the left channel momentarily bamboozling Dibusz in goal and creeping under the keeper's left glove into the far side of the net in the 74th minute. The Melbourne City forward, due to take his place in Russia as the youngest player at this summer's World Cup, had only been on the pitch for around a minute.

It didn't appear as if Hungary would be able to recover but the visitors contributed to the relinquishment of their lead in unfortunate fashion, captain Trent Sainsbury heading Attila Fiola's seemingly harmless right-wing cross past his own stranded goalkeeper to level the scores with just four minutes of normal time remaining. That wasn't the end of the late drama though, Irvine's acceleration down the left in added time allowing the pony-tailed attacker to send a wicked, low cross into the six-yard box which Kádár could only divert past Dibusz into his own net with arch-goalpoacher Tim Cahill lurking behind him.

That was the end of the goalmouth action as Hungary, perhaps undeservedly, suffered their third defeat in four friendly matches this year, although this first-half display against Australia featured some of the best football the team has played for a good while.

Goalscorers: HUN: Sainsbury (88., own goal), AUS: Arzani (74.), Kádár (92., own goal)

Yellow cards: HUN: Varga J. (44.), Fiola (78.), AUS: Leckie (22.), Jedinak (76.)

Hungary (surnames first): Gulácsi Péter (Dibusz Dénes, 46.) - Lovrencsics Gergő (Fiola Attila, 73.), Vinicius Paulo, Kádár Tamás, Szabó János - Vadócz Krisztián, Varga József - Varga Roland,

Kleinheisler László (Eppel Márton, 66.), Sallai Roland (Varga Kevin, 84.) - Szalai Ádám (Bóde Dániel, 62.)

World Cup Finals, Group C													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
16th. June 2018, 13.00			Kazan Arena, Kazan, Russia				Sunny			19C		41279	
France..2 v. Australia..1													
half time, France..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Hugo Lloris (c)					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Benjamin Pavard					5	DF	Mark Milligan				
4	DF	Raphaël Varane					7	FW	Mathew Leckie		13		
5	DF	Samuel Umtiti					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				84
6	MF	Paul Pogba	81				11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				64
7	FW	Antoine Griezmann	58(pk)			70	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
10	FW	Kylian Mbappé					15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	62(pk)			
11	FW	Ousmane Dembélé				70*	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich		87		
12	MF	Corentin Tolisso		76		78	19	DF	Joshua Risdon		57		
13	MF	N'Golo Kanté					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
21	DF	Lucas Hernández					23	MF	Tomas Rogic				72
SUBSTITUTES													
3	DF	Presnel Kimpembe					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
8	FW	Thomas Lemar					3	DF	James Meredith				
9	FW	Olivier Giroud	81			70	4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
14	MF	Blaise Matuidi				78	6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
15	MF	Steven Nzonzi					8	MF	Massimo Luongo				
16	GK	Steve Mandanda					9	FW	Tomislav Juric				64
17	DF	Adil Rami					12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
18	FW	Nabil Fekir				70*	14	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
19	DF	Djibril Sidibé					17	FW	Daniel Arzani				84
20	FW	Florian Thauvin					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
22	DF	Benjamin Mendy					21	FW	Dimitrios Petratos				
23	GK	Alphonse Areola					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				72
Team Coach		Didier Deschamps					Team Coach		Bert van Marwijk				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Andrés Cunha Soca (Uruguay)											
Assistant Referee 1		Nicolas Tarán (Uruguay)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mauricio Espinosa Rodríguez (Uruguay)											

match report from ESPN

France snatched a 2-1 victory over Australia in a game that saw them awarded the first VAR penalty decision in World Cup history.

Antoine Griezmann converted to give them the lead after a goalless first half, but Mile Jedinak struck from the spot to equalise minutes later before Paul Pogba's deflected strike hit the bar and bounced in for a late winner.

France had fashioned the opening chance with two minutes on the clock, Kylian Mbappe bringing a save from Mat Ryan with an angled shot.

With Didier Deschamps' side dominating early on, Mbappe won a free-kick 25 yards out minutes later but Pogba's strike was straight at goalkeeper Ryan.

A third chance in the first six minutes arrived when Griezmann's attempt from the edge of the box following a swift France counter-attack was held by Ryan.

Ryan was again in the right place to claim when an attempted Mbappe cross took a deflection before Australia broke to win a free kick that was whipped in by Aaron Mooy but came to nothing.

Mathew Leckie was booked for a foul on Lucas Hernandez after 12 minutes, but Australia repelled Griezmann's delivery into the box.

But with 17 minutes gone Hugo Lloris prevented Australia from taking a surprise lead, making a fine low save after another Mooy delivery had been deflected towards his own goal by Corentin Tolisso.

France's play was losing its early intensity, with passes beginning going astray and Australia growing in belief as the half-hour approached.

Griezmann was thwarted by a well-timed Trent Sainsbury challenge as France tried to get back on the offensive, and another Sainsbury intervention saw Hernandez thwarted after he had found space on the left.

With five minutes until half-time and the game increasingly scrappy, France were frustrated again as Mooy cleared and then Sainsbury got another touch to divert a dangerous-looking cross away from Griezmann.

Neither coach made a change at the break, but France came out on the front foot -- and they broke through when, after a VAR review, referee Andres Cunha pointed to the spot for a penalty.

The moment came when, after 55 minutes, Pogba played the ball through to Griezmann, who was challenged by Josh Risdon.

Cunha waved play on but, after the review, the penalty was given and blasted home by Griezmann with 58 minutes played, with Risdon was booked.

Four minutes later Australia had a penalty of their own when Samuel Umtiti handled a Mooy cross, Jedinak rolling the ball low beyond Lloris to level after VAR had again been used to confirm the handball.

Tomislav Juric replaced fellow forward Andrew Nabbout as Australia made a change and, buoyed by the equaliser, they threatened again as a good move involving Mooy resulted in a cross that France blocked.

France coach Didier Deschamps made a double change as Olivier Giroud and Nabil Fekir came on for Griezmann and Ousmane Dembele, Australia replacing Tom Rogic with fellow midfielder Jackson Irvine soon afterwards.

Deschamps made his final switch, Blaise Matuidi on for Tolisso, as the game headed towards a tense last 10 minutes.

And within a minute, his side took the lead when Pogba's effort clipped a defender before bouncing off the bar and in, goalline technology confirming it had crossed the line and another VAR check finding there had been

no offside in the build-up.

Teenager Daniel Arzani came on for Robbie Kruse as Australia chased another equaliser, but they were unable to conjure another goal as France held firm for five minutes of added time.

World Cup Finals, Group C													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
21st. June 2018, 16.00			Samara Arena, Samara, Russia				Sunny			24C		40727	
Denmark..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, Denmark..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Kasper Schmeichel					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
4	DF	Simon Kjær (c)					5	DF	Mark Milligan				
6	DF	Andreas Christensen					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
14	DF	Henrik Dalsgaard					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
17	DF	Jens Stryger Larsen					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
8	MF	Thomas Delaney					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
10	MF	Christian Eriksen	7				15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak (c)	38(pk)			
19	MF	Lasse Schöne					23	MF	Tomas Rogic				82
9	FW	Nicolai Jørgensen				68	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
20	FW	Yussuf Yurary Poulsen		37		59	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				68
23	FW	Pione Sisto		84			11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				75
SUBSTITUTES													
2	MF	Michael Krohn-Dehli					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
3	DF	Jannik Vestergaard					3	DF	James Meredith				
5	DF	Jonas Knudsen					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				
11	FW	Martin Braithwaite				59	6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
12	FW	Kasper Dolberg					8	MF	Massimo Luongo				
13	DF	Mathias Jørgensen					9	FW	Tomi Juric				75
15	FW	Viktor Fischer					12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
16	GK	Jonas Lössl					14	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
18	MF	Lukas Lerager					17	FW	Daniel Arzani				68
21	FW	Andreas Cornelius				68	18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
22	GK	Frederik Rønnow					21	FW	Dimitrios Petratos				
7	MF	William Kvist					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				82
Team Coach		Åge Hareide					Team Coach		Lambertus "Bert" van Marwijk				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Antonio Mateu Lahoz (Spain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Pau Cebrián Devis (Spain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Roberto Díaz Pérez (Spain)											

match report from ESPN

Mile Jedinak scored from a penalty given after a VAR review as Australia came from a goal down to draw 1-1 with Denmark.

The Socceroos offered an early threat on the counter when Tom Rogic held the ball up inside the area but Robbie Kruse failed to make anything of the resulting half-chance.

But with only seven minutes gone, Denmark were ahead with a goal of the highest quality as the Nicolai Jørgensen's cushioned layoff was crashed into the roof of the net by Tottenham's Christian Eriksen.

Rogic and Kruse linked once again as Australia looked for a route back into the match, but their efforts were undermined by a lack of quality in the final pass.

Denmark almost doubled their lead when Aaron Mooy lost the ball after 21 minutes, Mat Ryan parrying Pione Sisto's effort, before Rogic dragged well wide at the other end soon afterwards.

Jørgensen headed wide when he should probably have scored after a build-up down the right, and then Kruse wanted too much time inside the area as Australia fashioned an opening.

But after 36 minutes came the incident from which they levelled, Mathew Leckie's header adjudged, after a VAR review, to have been diverted away by a deliberate handball from Yussuf Poulsen, who was booked.

When play resumed two minutes later, Mile Jedinak beat Kasper Schmeichel with a low penalty to give Australia reward for their improvement and leave the game level at the break.

Australia began the second half in bright style but were almost behind again after 51 minutes when neat build-up play resulted in a chance for Sisto, whose snap-shot went wide.

However, they soon created another threat of their own, a dangerous cross by Aziz Behich from the left creating problems before Jens Larsen scrambled it away at the far post.

Josh Risdon wasted another chance to put a decent ball into the box for Australia before Denmark made their first change, Poulsen replaced by Daryl Braithwaite.

Rogic threaded a good ball through to create space, only for a heavy first touch from Leckie to let Denmark off the hook, and after 68 minutes a low cross flashed across the Denmark area with no Socceroo able to get a touch.

Daniel Arzani replaced Kruse for Australia, with Denmark switching Jørgensen for Andreas Cornelius, and as the game entered its final 20 minutes Mooy blasted narrowly over from 25 yards.

Rogic was the next player to try his luck, a curling effort saved by Schmeichel, and at the other end Sisto found space but bent his shot wide before Australia were forced into another change when Andrew Nabbout suffered a shoulder injury and was replaced by Tomi Juric.

Schmeichel saved from Leckie as the game's quickfire end-to-end pattern continued, and then Azani did brilliantly to get away from his marker on the right, the low cross whizzing through the box with nobody on the

end of it.

With eight minutes remaining, Australia took off Rogic, who had an excellent game, and replaced him with Jackson Irvine, whose first involvement saw him fouled by Sisto with the Denmark man being booked. Schmeichel beat away an effort from Lazani and held another strike by Leckie as Australia were unable to find the winning goal their increasing pressure had threatened.

World Cup Finals, Group C													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
26th. June 2018, 17.00			Fisht Stadium, Sochi, Russia				Partly Cloudy			30C		44073	
Peru..2 v. Australia..0													
half time, Peru..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Pedro Gallese Quiroz					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
4	DF	Anderson Santamaria Bardales					5	DF	Mark Milligan		88		
6	DF	Miguel Trauco Saavedra					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
15	DF	Christian Ramos Garagay					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
17	DF	Luis Advincula Castrillón					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
8	MF	Christian Cueva Bravo					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
13	MF	Renato Tapia Cortijo				63	15	MF	Michael "Mile" Jedinak		10		
19	MF	Victor Yoshimar Yotún Flores		45		46	23	MF	Tomas Rogic		66		72
9	FW	José Paolo Guerrero Gonzales (c)	50				7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
18	FW	André Carrillo Díaz	18			79	9	FW	Tomi Juric				53
20	FW	Edison Flores Peralta					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				58
SUBSTITUTES													
2	DF	Alberto Rodríguez Valdelomar					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
3	DF	Aldo Corzo Chávez					3	DF	James Meredith				
5	DF	Miguel Araujo Blanco					4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				53
7	MF	Cristopher Paolo Hurtado Huertas		79		63	6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
11	FW	Raúl Ruidíaz Misitich					8	MF	Massimo Luongo				
12	GK	Carlos Cáceda Ollaguez					11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				
14	MF	Andy Polo Andrade					12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
16	MF	Wilder Cartagena Mendoza				79	14	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
21	GK	José Carvallo Alonso					17	FW	Daniel Arzani		60		58
22	DF	Nilson Loyola Morales					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
23	MF	Pedro Aquino Sánchez				46	21	FW	Dimitrios Petratos				
10	FW	Jefferson Farfán Guadalupe					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				72
Team Coach		Ricardo Gareca Nardi					Team Coach		Lambertus "Bert" van Marwijk				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Sergei Karasev (Russia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Anton Averianov (Russia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Tikhon Kalugin (Russia)											

match report from ESPN

Australia's slim hopes of advancing from Group C were extinguished on Tuesday with a 2-0 defeat to Peru, who exited the World Cup on a high note in Sochi.

A stunning Andre Carrillo volley gave Peru their first World Cup goal in 36 years before captain Paolo Guerrero grabbed a second early in the second half.

The already-eliminated Peruvians, who could have felt hard done by following 1-0 defeats to France and Denmark, grabbed their first World Cup win since their 4-1 defeat of Iran at the 1978 finals in Argentina.

Denied a place at the global showpiece for 36 years, the result left Peru third in Group C with three points, while the Socceroos head home with just one, but more than a few regrets.

France, who won the group, will face Argentina in the round of 16, and Group D winners will meet Denmark.

The Socceroos needed a win to have a chance to advance, but as it turned out, even victory would not have been enough for Australia as France and Denmark played out a goalless draw in the other group game to ensure they both advanced.

Bert van Marwijk's side would have felt it was déjà vu, as Australia surged forward in numbers but lacked the polish to conjure a score, captain Mile Jedinak blazing over the bar in the fifth minute.

It was a defensive error that allowed Guerrero to swoop and set up Carrillo's opener. Full back Josh Risdon failed to deal with a long ball, allowing Guerrero possession at the left of the area, and the captain wheeled a cross into the path of winger Carrillo, who hammered the ball into the left corner of the net.

It was Peru's first World Cup goal since Guillermo La Rosa scored in a 5-1 defeat by Poland at the 1982 finals in Spain.

Australia tried to rally through midfielder Tom Rogic, who barged through a nest of defenders into the box in the 27th minute only to have his shot blocked.

Winger Mathew Leckie was then denied in the goalmouth by a scrambling defence in the 36th minute.

Guerrero, whose tournament was in doubt due to a doping suspension, doubled the score in the 50th minute, a deflection off Jedinak dropping the ball in his path obligingly before his shot rebounded off Mark Milligan into the net.

Not even an early second-half injection of talisman Tim Cahill could spark the Socceroos, their 38-year-old striker denied a goal in his World Cup swansong when he fired a volley straight into a Peru defender.

From there, Peru rode their luck to the finish as Australia peppered the goal in desperation to no avail.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. October 2018, 19.30			Al Kuwait Sports Club Stadium, Kuwait City, Kuwait									300 approximately	
Kuwait..0 v. Australia..4													
half time, Kuwait..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Hameed Yousef Al-Qallaf					1	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
5	DF	Fahed Al-Hajeri					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury		61		
20	DF	Khalid El Ebrahim	12(og)			62	5	DF	Mark Milligan				
14	DF	Dhari Said Abdullah					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				76
18	DF	Amer Maatouq Al-Fadhel				82	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				83
11	MF	Fahad Ebrahim Al-Ansari					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				76*
6	MF	Sultan Al-Enezi				45	8	MF	Massimo Luongo				
7	MF	Fahad Saleh Al-Enezi				67	7	MF	Mathew Leckie				73
15	MF	Abdullah Mawi				71	23	MF	Tomas Rogic	82			
12	FW	Yaqoub Husain Al-Tararwa				45*	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				65
9	FW	Hussain Mohsen Al-Moussawi					24	FW	Apostolos Giannou	21			65*
SUBSTITUTES													
19	MF	Mohamed Khalil				62	3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				83
		Mohammad Frieih Aidh Al-Rashidi											
2	DF					82	21	DF	Thomas Deng				76
3	MF	Ahmed Al-Dhefiri				71	17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				76*
16	MF	Faisal Zayed Al-Harbi				45*	14	MF	Daniel Arzani				65
8	MF	Mashari Al Azmi				45	11	FW	Awer Mabil	88			73
21	FW	Omar Al Hubaiter				67	9	FW	Tomi Juric				65*
13	DF	Fahad Hammoud Al-Rashidi					12	GK	Bradley "Brad" Jones				
23	GK	Sulaiman Abdulghafoor					28	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
4	MF	Ghazi Al Qahadi					6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
1	GK	Khaled Al-Rashidi					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
10	DF	Ali Ateej					13	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
17	MF	Hamad Harbi					25	MF	Denis Genreau				
Team Coach		Romeo Jozak					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Yaqoob Said Abdullah Abdul Baki (Oman)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdullah Al Shammakhi (Oman)											
Assistant Referee 2		Abdullah Al Jardani (Oman)											

The crowd is an estimate as the gates were opened and spectators were allowed in free of charge.

match report from ESPN

In his first match as full-time Socceroos coach, Graham Arnold got the statement win he wanted as Australia brushed aside Kuwait 4-0 on Tuesday morning (AEDT).

An own goal by defender Khalid Mohamed Ibrahim gave the visitors the perfect start after 12 minutes with Apostolos Giannou, Tom Rogic and debutant Awer Mabil all finding the net in a one-sided victory in Kuwait City.

For much of the match Australia were in cruise control, playing to the structures set by their new management rather than going for the jugular.

Rogic was at the heart of everything positive for Arnold's side in what was an excellent display from the Celtic playmaker.

The Socceroos entered the match promising a win and a performance to please the new manager, who spent two international windows preparing his team for the occasion.

Arnold made four changes from Australia's last outing -- a 2-0 defeat by Peru at the World Cup -- with Danny Vukovic, Massimo Luongo, Jackson Irvine and Giannou restored to the starting lineup.

It became clear early that Kuwait would not be up to the task and the hosts could barely have been more accommodating with two huge errors that led to early goals.

Ibrahim began the rout when he headed Robbie Kruse's curling cross into his own net.

On the 20-minute mark Giannou scored his first international goal with a smart finish following a mix-up between defender Dhari Sa'ed and goalkeeper Hamid Yousef.

Whether it was the comfortable scoreline or the humidity, the Socceroos sat back on their lead before the introduction of substitutes Daniel Arzani and Tomi Juric on the hour added some spark to the attack.

Luongo set up the third goal with a strong tackle that released Rogic who fired past Yousef.

With Mabil -- along with his great mate Thomas Deng -- thrown on late, there was time for the former Adelaide United winger to finish off a fine move and add some extra gloss to the scoreline.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
17th. November 2018, 19.50			Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland (Lang Park)									32922	
Australia..1 v. Korea Republic..1													
half time, Australia..0 v. Korea Republic..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					1	GK	Kim Seung-Gyu				
5	DF	Mark Milligan		88			19	DF	Kim Young-Gwon				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					4	DF	Kim Min-Jae				85
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					14	DF	Hong Chul		38		
19	DF	Joshua Risdon					2	DF	Lee Yong				
8	MF	Massimo Luongo	90+4				7	MF	Hwang In-Beom				90+2
13	MF	Aaron Mooy					13	MF	Koo Ja-Cheol				45
14	FW	Jamie Maclaren				71	16	FW	Hwang Ui-Jo	22			46
10	FW	Robbie Kruse				55	17	FW	Lee Chung-Yong				81
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				85	18	FW	Moon Seon-Min				69
23	FW	Tomas Rogic					10	FW	Nam Tae-Hee				
SUBSTITUTES													
24	FW	Martin Boyle		89		71	15	DF	Jung Seung-Hyun				85
25	FW	Awer Mabil				55	24	MF	Kim Jung-Min				90+2
9	FW	Tomi Juric				85	5	MF	Ju Se-Jong				45
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					9	FW	Suk Hyun-Jun				46
6	DF	Matthew Jurman					8	MF	Lee Jin-Hyan				81
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic					26	MF	Na Sang-Ho				69
17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini					22	DF	Park Ji-Soo				
15	MF	James Jeggo					21	GK	Kim Jin-Hyeon				
2	DF	Milos Degenek					20	DF	Kwon Kyung-Won				
22	MF	Jackson Irvine					6	DF	Park Joo-Ho				
11	FW	Andrew Nabbout					23	GK	Jo Hyeon-Woo				
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach					25	DF	Lee You-Hyeon				
Team Coach		Graham Arnold					Team Coach		Paulo Bento				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Jumpei Iida (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Toru Sagara (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hiroshi Yamauchi (Japan)											

match report from ESPN

Just as they did in the 2015 Asian Cup final, Australia broke South Korean hearts with a late goal.

Massimo Luongo's equaliser in the dying seconds on Saturday night at Suncorp Stadium sealed a dramatic 1-1 draw with the Taeguk Warriors. A spilled shot by South Korean goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu deep into stoppage time was pounced on by the Socceroos' midfielder, who poked the ball home from close range.

A VAR review upheld the goal, despite Korean protests about possible offside or a foul on Kim, and Australia escaped with a share of the spoils.

Socceroos coach Graham Arnold said the late strike was the least his team deserved after a match they had dominated.

"We got what we deserved," he said. "In the short time I've been in charge, the only thing I can judge is the performance on what we've trained. 24 shots to three ... the intent the players had to perform was outstanding.

The attitude was outstanding. I've got a dressing room in there that is proud of the performance and I'm very proud of them as well."

Arnold's men made a bright start with chances falling to Tom Rogic, Josh Risdon and Aaron Mooy before the game changed in an instant.

Striker Hwang Ui-Jo latched onto a long ball that split Australia's defence, outpacing Trent Sainsbury before coolly finishing past Mat Ryan. That was Korea's only chance in the first half, as Australia huffed and puffed in front of goal but failed to convert their opportunities.

Of the past 94 goals scored by the Socceroos - - 38 of them have come from the retired pair Tim Cahill or Mile Jedinak. Cahill did a lap of honour at half-time ahead of his Socceroos send-off against Lebanon on Tuesday in Sydney, and how the fans would have been hoping the country's record goal-scorer was still on the pitch when the match resumed.

Arnold turned to Australia's new generation in the second half, throwing on Scottish-born winger Martin Boyle for a debut and giving a second national team appearance to Awer Mabil. Boyle and Mabil added pace and verve as Australia pressed for an equaliser.

Ryan's acrobatic save to paw away Ju Se-jong's free-kick in the 71st minute kept Australia in the contest before the hosts laid siege on the Korean goal. Their efforts appeared to have been in vain before Luongo pounced with what was virtually the last kick of the game.

South Korean coach Paulo Bento conceded it would have been daylight robbery by his team to have claimed a win.

"Our opponent didn't deserve to lose this game," the Portuguese said. "That is a good result for us as well. Draw in the first game that we play away and, at the same time, we are sure that we need to improve a lot of things."

Australia take on Lebanon in their final friendly before January's Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates, while Korea stay in Brisbane for a friendly on Tuesday against Uzbekistan.

Date & Time			Venue					Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
20th. November 2018, 19.30			ANZ Stadium, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales										33268	
Australia..3 v. Lebanon..0														
half time, Australia..2 v. Lebanon..0														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
1	GK	Mathew Ryan				45	1	GK	Mehdi Khalil					
2	DF	Milos Degenek					4	DF	Nour Mansour				71	
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury		82		85	6	DF	Joan Oumari					
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					2	DF	Kassem El Zein					
28	DF	Rhyan Grant					18	DF	Walid Ismail				88	
22	MF	Jackson Irvine					5	DF	Nassar Nassar					
17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				74	12	MF	Adnan Haidar					
13	FW	Aaron Mooy				82	15	MF	Samir Ahmed Ayass				60	
9	FW	Tomi Juric				69	11	MF	Omar Khalid Chaaban Bugiel				6	
25	FW	Awer Mabil				66	22	MF	Bassel Zakaria Jradi		70		75	
24	FW	Martin Boyle	19, 41				7	FW	Hassan Ali Maatouk (c)					
SUBSTITUTES														
18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				45	3	DF	Moataz Bellah Al-Junaidi				71	
6	DF	Matthew Jurman				85	8	FW	Hassan Ali Cheaito				88	
15	MF	James Jeggo				74	20	FW	Rabea Ataya				60	
4	FW	Timothy "Tim" Cahill				82	10	MF	Mohamad Faouzi Haidar				6, 85	
11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				69	16	DF	Hassan Samih Cheaito				85	
7	FW	Mathew Leckie	68			66	14	MF	Nader Matar				75	
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					23	GK	Abbas Hassan					
19	DF	Joshua Risdon					21	GK	Mostafa Matar					
8	MF	Massimo Luongo												
27	DF	Craig Goodwin												
14	FW	Jamie Maclaren												
3	DF	Alexander Gersbach												
Team Coach		Graham Arnold						Team Coach		Miodrag Radulović				
Team Manager								Team Manager						
Referee		Ryuji Sato (Japan)												
Assistant Referee 1														
Assistant Referee 2														

Rabea Ataya is also shown as Rabih Ataya. Moataz Bellah Al Junaidi is also shown as Mootaz Bellah El Jounaidi. Hassan Ali Cheaito is also shown as Hassan Ali Chaito. Hassan Samih Cheaito is also shown as Hassan Samih Chaito.

match report from ESPN

Scottish-born striker Martin Boyle is quickly endearing himself to Australian football lovers, after starring in his first Socceroos start, as Tim Cahill made a final international cameo in the 3-0 win over Lebanon on Tuesday.

With coach Graham Arnold looking to finalise his squad for the Asian Cup finals in the United Arab Emirates in under two months' time, Boyle pressed his case in compelling fashion.

Boyle, whose father was born in Sydney, provided an assist for a last-gasp equaliser against South Korea last Saturday and bagged a first-half double at ANZ Stadium and an assist after the break.

Cahill won his 108th and final cap, coming on in the 82nd minute to the delight of many of the 33,268 patrons.

He was handed the captain's armband a few minutes later when leader for the night Trent Sainsbury was substituted.

Cahill couldn't score a 51st international goal, though on one occasion an inviting cross looked destined to find his head, before Lebanon defender Kassem Al Zein spoil the moment by getting a glancing touch which flicked the ball away from the Socceroos veteran.

Australia dominated against a side ranked 82nd, 40 places below them in the world rankings.

While Cahill's international career came to an end, the most influential player on the night, was Boyle whose Socceroos journey has only just started.

His first in the 19th minute was a trifle fortunate, as his shot following an enterprising run deflected off Lebanon's Joan Oumari.

Boyle's second in the 41st minute was a simple two-metre tap in after Milos Degenek's header from an Aaron Mooy corner thudded against the crossbar.

Even before his first score, the 25-year-old Hibernian winger looked Australia's most likely source of a goal.

He had a fourth minute shot saved by goalkeeper Mehdi Khalil and sent another attempt wide three minutes later, while Tomi Juric also went close a couple of times.

Boyle turned provider in the 68th minute when his right wing cross was swept home emphatically by substitute Mathew Leckie, two minutes after coming on.

Boyle was one of seven changes Arnold made to the side that started Saturday's game.
Sydney FC right back Grant became the 600th capped Socceroo when awarded his debut and Milos Degenek was brought into the centre of defence.
Mustafa Amini and Jackson Irvine were called into the midfield and Boyle, Juric and Awer Mabil provided a new a strikeforce.
Jimmy Jeggo made his Socceroos debut off the bench late in the game.

match report from the ABC

Tim Cahill has made an emotional farewell to international football in Socceroos colours, with Australia running out 3-0 winners over Lebanon in Sydney.

Cahill was given a guard of honour by his teammates after full-time during a special presentation.

"This is the only time you're going to see me cry," Cahill said on the dais alongside his children.

"I want to say thank you firstly to my family for being there from day one."

"I want to thank my teammates and all the staff I've worked with. Without you guys I'd be nothing."

"The coaches that are not here, the players that are not here, thank you very much from the bottom of my heart."

"Now the most important people as well are the fans. It was tough for me to play for Australia at the start, but I tell you what every time I played with the green and gold I played with my heart."

"This is just as much for all of you as it is for me. Thank you very much Australia."

A brace to Scotsman-turned-Australian Martin Boyle, and a brilliant second-half goal for Mat Leckie secured a win for the Socceroos in their last run-out before the Asian Cup in the UAE in January.

Boyle's first goal came midway through the first stanza, lashing home from distance with a fortunate deflection taking the ball beyond the keeper.

The Scotsman would have been feeling more than happy with his change in national allegiance in the 42nd minute, prodding the ball home for his second goal after Milos Degenek's excellent header bounced back off the crossbar.

There were some light hearted moments from the bench as Cahill got the crowd going when the cameras spotted him tying his boots, with the cheers getting more raucous as he did his warm-ups.

On the pitch, Leckie made it 3-0 as Boyle turned provider, putting in a low cross for Leckie to lash home emphatically.

The big moment came on the 81st minute when Cahill took his place on the pitch to replace Aaron Mooy, and there was nearly one more moment of magic to come.

Boyle's cross from the right looked perfectly floated and on a plate for Cahill's deadly noggin, only for a last gasp defensive header to rob him of a 51st goal for Australia.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
30th. December 2018, 16.00			Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates									approximately 50, officially closed doors	
Oman..0 v. Australia..5													
half time, Oman..0 v. Australia..3													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Faiz Issa Khadoom Al-Rushaidi					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Mohammad Al-Musalami					2	DF	Milos Degenek	58			
5	DF	Mohammed Al-Sheiba				45	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				83
17	DF	Ali Al-Busaidi					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
11	DF	Saad Al-Mukhaini				45*	4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
23	MF	Harib Al Saadi					5	DF	Mark Milligan (c)				72*
12	MF	Ahmed Al-Mahajiri				62*	21	FW	Awser Mabil	24			83*
21	MF	Mataz Saleh Roboh					10	FW	Robbie Kruse				64
15	MF	Jameel Al-Yahmadi				62	17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				64*
7	FW	Khalid Al-Hajri				66	15	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis	14			
10	FW	Mohsin Al-Khaldi					11	FW	Andrew Nabbout	10			72
SUBSTITUTES													
25	MF	Salah Al-Yahyai					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
		Mohammed Faraj Abdullah											
3	DF	Al-Rawahi					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
34	FW	Mohammed Al-Hosni					13	MF	James Jeggo				
4	MF	Ali Hilal Saud Al-Jabri					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
1	GK	Ammar Al-Rushaidi					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				83*
22	GK	Ahmed Faraj Abdullah Al-Rawahi					6	DF	Matthew Jurman				83
		Mohammed Saleh Abdullah											
9	FW	Al-Ghassani					14	FW	Martin Boyle				72
16	FW	Muhsen Al-Ghassani				66	22	MF	Jackson Irvine	89			72*
		Raed Ibrahim Saleh Haikal											
6	MF	Al-Mukhaini				62	8	MF	Massimo Luongo				64*
32	MF	Yaseen Khalil Abdullah Al-Sheyadi				62*	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				64
13	DF	Khalid Al-Braiki		68		45							
31	MF	Mahmoud Al-Mushaifri				45*							
Team Coach		Pim Verbeek					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Omar Mohamed Al-Ali (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 1													
Assistant Referee 2													

Faiz Issa Khadoom Al-Rushaidi is also shown as Faiyz Al Rashidi.

match report from ESPN

With just a week remaining until Australia's AFC Asian Cup title defence begins in earnest, Socceroos head coach Graham Arnold had one final chance to assess the merits of his squad with a friendly hit-out against Oman at the Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum Stadium in Dubai.

A 3-0 lead by half-time became a 5-0 Australian victory at the full-time and means the Socceroos head into the Asian Cup on a four-game unbeaten streak under their new boss. However, the match served as less of an audition for starting spots than an opportunity to get minutes into players lacking in playing time at the club level.

Arnold would have been hoping for a sturdy challenge as he continues to search for a solution to the ongoing conundrum he has at the defensive business end of the pitch; had he been searching solely for goal scorers, he found plenty. Yet the match, played behind closed doors, had the atmosphere and feel of a training run. Truth be told, the Socceroos boss could have run a session with an all-Socceroo 11 vs. 11 that would have proved a tougher test.

Despite the fact his players rarely seemed stressed, Arnold insisted they could take a lot from the match.

"They're learning the principles of the play that we want to play. They're learning quickly the attacking intent that we expect every game. It's about getting men in areas to score goals: I've said that for a long time" he told EPSN.

The Socceroos boss also has very high standards for the way he wants his side to play.

"I look very very closely at Liverpool and the way they play and when I shut my eyes at night, I see us playing that way. We've got the players to do it. Oman, we didn't give them time to play at all and put a lot of pressure on them and that was that."

Already missing star midfielder Aaron Mooy and young talent Daniel Arzani, the increasingly likely confirmation of Mathew Leckie's withdrawal from the squad would be a further blow to Arnold's aspirations of fielding a

side that plays like Liverpool. Tom Rogic was another omission from this match, with his club coach Brendan Rodgers reportedly requesting the midfielder be given extra time to recover from a knee injury. In fairness to the players who were on the pitch, they could only deal with what was put in front of them and while the starting side seems far from finalised, Mark Milligan looked to have found his niche in the holding midfield role, with Milos Degenek settling well into the centre of defence alongside Trent Sainsbury and Aziz Behich almost a certainty to start at left-back.

At the other end of the pitch, the current crop of Socceroos have scored 13 times in four matches yet it's the perennial question of which combination works best that remains unanswered, despite the goals seemingly there for the taking in Dubai.

Oman were unbeaten in 14 matches coming into this fixture though the solid defending, which is the hallmark of teams coached by Pim Verbeek, was conspicuously absent. His players were seemingly missing in action over the first 45 minutes as Andrew Nabbout broke through the porous defence to open the scoring for Australia inside 10 minutes. Just four minutes later, Perth Glory talisman Chris Ikonomidis opened his Socceroos account to double the advantage before Awer Mabil made it 3-0 with just 23 minutes played.

There were substitutions aplenty in the second half but Australia kept the scoreboard ticking over with Degenek and Jackson Irvine adding to Oman's misery with goals.

After the match, Degenek admitted that luck played a large part in his goal but he was nonetheless delighted to score in the green and gold.

"Last time against Lebanon in Sydney, I hit the bar and [Martin] 'Boyley' scored. Now I've scored so it's quite a nice feeling and it means something very special. I hope this is one of many to come."

Australia will need those goals in January if they are to retain their position as the Champions of Asia. Former Socceroo Sasa Ogrenovski says Arnold will be keen to see his system developing throughout the Asian Cup, and won't be focussing on the title defence just yet.

"He hasn't had the extended build-up that most coaches like [to have] heading into a major tournament. Right now, it's about working out how all the pieces fit together," Ogrenovski told ESPN.

"Knowing him as a coach, he will want his system in place and when it starts to click, then he will look to the results."

match report from FFA

The Caltex Socceroos will take confidence and fine scoring form into the AFC Asian Cup after outclassing Oman 5-0 in their final pre-tournament friendly.

Chris Ikonomidis and Milos Degenek opened their international accounts while Andrew Nabbout, Awer Mabil and substitute Jackson Irvine were also on target as the Asian champions issued a statement of intent in Dubai.

Three goals in the opening 24 minutes gave a porous Oman little hope of avoiding a first defeat in 15 matches and set Graham Arnold's men on the right course ahead of next Sunday's Group B opener against Jordan.

Australia's onslaught began when Nabbout - starting as a centre-forward - punished Saad Suhail for miscontrolling a high ball with his chest in the 10th minute.

Another close-range finish followed four minutes later, Perth Glory star Ikonomidis continuing his excellent club form with a clinical left-footed finish following tidy lead-up play from Mustafa Amini and winger Mabil.

The latter turned scorer midway through the one-sided first half, giving the Caltex Socceroos a commanding three-goal cushion before the break by tapping home Aziz Behich's measured low cross from the left.

Oman were more competitive after the interval but had no answer to defender Degenek's cute flicked finish from Ikonomidis' corner in the 58th minute.

Arnold introduced the likes of Jamie Maclaren and Martin Boyle as the second half wore on but it was Irvine, twice on target for Hull City in his most recent club appearance, who rounded out the rout with a rasping volley in the 89th minute.

The Caltex Socceroos will now centre their full focus on translating an eye-catching display into AFC Asian Cup results as the countdown to next Sunday's clash ramps up.

AFC Asian Cup Finals, Group Stage, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
6th. January 2019, 15.00			Hazza bin Zayed Stadium, Al Ain, Arab Emirates			United					4934		
Jordan..1 v. Australia..0													
half time, Jordan..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Amer Shafi Mahmoud Sabbah (c)					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
19	DF	Anas Walid Khaled Bani Yaseen	26				20	DF	Trent Sainsbury		28		
3	DF	Tareq Ziad Jabr Khattab					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
21	DF	Salem Mahmoud Al-Ajalin					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
2	DF	Feras Zeyad Yousef Shelbaieh					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				45
6	MF	Saeed Mohammad Saeed Hasan Murjan				90	23	FW	Tomas Rogic				
13	MF	Khalil Zaid Bani Attiah					8	MF	Massimo Luongo				74
4	MF	Baha' Abdel-Rahman Suleiman					5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
18	FW	Musa Suliman Al-Taamari		51		72	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
11	MF	Yaseen Anas Al-Bakhit				88	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				55
7	MF	Yousef Ahmad Mohammad Al-Rawashdeh					21	FW	Awer Mabil				
SUBSTITUTES													
10	MF	Ahmed Samir Seleh				90	4	DF	Rhyan Grant				45
9	FW	Baha' Faisal Mohammad Seif				72	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				74
14	MF	Ahmad Ersan Mohammad				88	15	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				55
12	GK	Ahmed Abdel-Sattar Nawwas					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
20	FW	Odai Khadr Salem Al-Qarra					6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
22	GK	Moataz Yaseen Mahjoub Al-Fityani					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
16	MF	Saleh Ibrahim Rateb					14	FW	Apostolos Giannou				
17	DF	Mohammad Ghassan Al-Basha					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
23	DF	Ihsan Nabil Farhan Haddad					17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				
8	MF	Obaida Al-Samarneh					13	MF	James Jeggo				
5	DF	Yazan Abu Arab					11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				
15	DF	Bara' Sami Mousa Marei					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
Team Coach		Vital Borkelmans					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Ahmed Abu Bakar Said Al-Kaf (Oman)											
Assistant Referee 1		Rashid Hamad Ali Al-Ghaithi (Oman)											
Assistant Referee 2		Abu Bakr Salim Mahad Al-Amri (Oman)											

Faras Zeyad Yousef Shelbaieh is also shown as Feras Shilbaya. Ihsan Nabil Farhan Haddad is also shown as Ehsan Haddad.
Obaida Al-Samarneh is also shown as Obieda Al-Samrieh.

match report from ESPN

Australia made the worst possible start to the defence of their Asian Cup crown on Sunday as Graham Arnold's Socceroos were handed a 1-0 defeat by unfancied Jordan.

The Australians, who won the title on home soil four years ago, dominated for long spells but were unable to find a way to cancel out Anas Bani Yaseen's 26th minute header in the Group B clash at Hazza bin Zayed Stadium.

"It was one of those days," Arnold said. "A frustrating day and the ball didn't seem to bounce. But you've got to give full credit to Jordan and they've shown that they had a lot of fight."

Vital Borkelmans' Jordan were resolute in defence against an Australia side that struggled to turn their domination into chances. The Socceroos went into half time trailing by a goal and were fortunate not to be further behind.

Bani Yaseen put his side in front when he was given the time and space to head Baha Abdelrahman's corner home unchallenged, powering the ball beyond the flat-footed Mat Ryan.

Four minutes later Abdelrahman almost added a second when his free kick from the edge of the area speared towards goal, only for Ryan to push the ball on to the woodwork before it was cleared.

For all their possession in the opposition half, Australia crafted few clear-cut opportunities, with Awer Mabil's shot coming back of goalkeeper Amer Shafi's legs and Jamie MacLaren heading high over the bar. Mabil hit the woodwork late in the second half as Australia grew increasingly desperate to find an equaliser and Shafi was kept busy until the final kick of the game but Jordan held on for a famous win. Australia next face Palestine on Jan. 11 while Jordan will take on Syria.

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have started their AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™ campaign with a defeat, going down to Jordan 1-0 at the Hazza bin Zayed Stadium on Sunday night.

Despite dominating for large periods, Graham Arnold's side were undone by Anas Bani Yaseen's first-half header.

Australia laid siege to Jordan's goal after the break but were continually denied what would have been a deserved equaliser by some desperate defending.

Awer Mabil hit the post as the Socceroos created chance after chance in the second half, with Chris Ikonmidis, Jackson Irvine and Tom Rogic all going close.

But it wasn't to be Australia's day, with Graham Arnold's side to now quickly turn their focus to Friday night's second group match against Palestine.

The Socceroos enjoyed plenty of possession in the early stages, with Jordan content to sit back and denied Australia space around their box.

Awer Mabil was looking the most threatening and almost gave Australia the lead on 13 minutes, getting in behind the Jordan defence on the left but his shot was well stopped by the keeper.

The let-off seemed to give Jordan a boost and they would go on to take the lead on 25 minutes.

Bani Yaseen managed to break free from his defender at a corner, planting an unstoppable header into the top corner of the net.

And the Socceroos had keeper Maty Ryan to thank for not falling further behind soon after.

Bahaa Abdulrahman hit a rasping free-kick from the edge of the box which was headed for the top corner, only for Ryan to produce a stunning fingertip save, tipping the ball onto the crossbar and away.

Rhyan Grant replaced Josh Risdon at right-back at the break and Australia immediately got on the front foot as they chased an equaliser.

And it almost came just after the hour mark as Tom Rogic let fly from 25 metres out with his shot spilled by the keeper, before substitute Chris Ikonmidis just failed to turn in the rebound.

It began a period of concerted pressure from Australia as they pushed Jordan back and probed for an opening.

Rogic could have done better 19 minutes from time when he was on the end of Aziz Behich's low cross, but the Celtic playmaker fired over the bar.

Australia went even closer soon after when Mabil made space for himself inside the box and rifled off a vicious strike which cannoned onto the post.

It was wave after wave of Socceroos attack now and Ikonmidis was again involved in the thick of the action, with his goal-bound header hacked off the line by a defender.

The Socceroos did have the ball in the net with four minutes left through Jamie MacLaren, only for the striker to be denied his first international goal by an offside flag.

Ikonmidis was denied again in stoppage-time as Jordan held on for a famous win.

AFC Asian Cup Finals, Group Stage, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
11th. January 2019, 15.00			Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates									11915	
Palestine..0 v. Australia..3													
half time, Palestine..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Ikram Rami Hamada					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
7	DF	Musab Al-Battat					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
15	DF	Abdelatif Al-Bahdari (c)					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury		83		
14	DF	Abdullah Jaber					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
21	DF	Alexis Norabuena					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
6	MF	Shadi Shaban					23	FW	Tom Rogic		56		75
23	MF	Mohammed Darweesh					5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
9	MF	Tamer Seyam					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
8	MF	Jonathan Eduardo Cantillana Zorrilla		35		57	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren	18			82
19	FW	Mahmoud Wadi				77	15	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				
20	MF	Nazmi Albadawi				71	21	FW	Awer Mabil	20			87
SUBSTITUTES													
18	MF	Oday Ibrahim Dabbagh				57	8	MF	Massimo Luongo				75
12	FW	Khaled Salem				77	14	FW	Apostolos Giannou	90			82
3	MF	Mohammed Bassim Rashid				71	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				87
2	DF	Mustafa Daniel Kabir					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
11	FW	Yashir Armando Islame Pinto					6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
17	MF	Pablo Andrés Tamburrini Bravo					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
5	DF	Tamer Salah					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
10	MF	Sameh Maraaba					17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				
13	DF	Jaka Hbaisha					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
1	GK	Tawfiq Ali Abu Hammad					13	MF	James Jeggo				
16	GK	Amr Kaddoura					11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				
							3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
Team Coach		Nouredine Ould Ali					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Valentin Kovalenko (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jakhongir Saidov (Uzbekistan)											

match report from ESPN

Australia's Asian Cup campaign is finally under way after a comfortable 3-0 win over Palestine in Dubai.

The Socceroos, beaten 1-0 by Jordan in their opening match, secured victory over a limited Palestine outfit to move into second in the group.

Jamie Maclaren's first goal for the Socceroos in the 18th minute and a strike by Awer Mabil two minutes later gave Australia a 2-0 halftime lead before substitute Apostolos Giannou sealed the win in injury time in the second half.

Coach Graham Arnold made three changes to his starting line-up and all made a difference with Chris Ikonmidis, Jackson Irvine and Rhyan Grant starting in place of Robbie Kruse, Massimo Luongo and the injured Josh Risdon.

The victory means a point against Syria in their final group match in Al Ain on Tuesday will be enough to put the Socceroos into the competition's knockout stages.

Arnold had demanded a reaction from his players to the Jordan match and he got it with Australia taking an early lead at the Rashid Stadium.

Maclaren broke his duck for Australia in his 10th appearance for the national team to open the scoring. The Hibernian striker's angled header found the far corner of the net after a good cross by Tom Rogic.

Within two minutes the lead had doubled when Ikonmidis found Awer Mabil at the back post and the South Sudanese refugee slammed home from close range.

Irvine twice came close to extending the lead with headers while Mabil probably should have had a second when he skied a shot after some clever work by Maclaren.

Giannou, on for Maclaren, put some gloss on the performance when he nodded home an Ikonmidis cross at the far post in 90th minute.

The only blemish for Australia was a late yellow card for defender Trent Sainsbury for time-wasting, which him rule out of the Syria game due to suspension.

Palestine, who picked up their first Asian Cup point against Syria last Sunday, toiled hard but were limited to half chances with Sainsbury and Milos Degenek largely untroubled at the back.

Palestine's final group match will be against group leaders Jordan in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

match report from FFA

The Socceroos have bounced back in impressive fashion at the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™, beating Palestine 3-0 at a sold-out Rashid Stadium on Friday night (AEDT).

First-half goals from Jamie Maclaren - his first for the Socceroos – and Awer Mabil had Australia in the lead before substitute Apostolos Giannou capped things off in the final minute.

It was a strong performance from Graham Arnold's troops, who were desperate to respond after losing their opening match against Jordan.

Chris Ikonomidis was one of three changes to the starting XI and the Perth Glory attacker was superb, setting up Mabil's and Giannou's goals and involved in many of Australia's best moments.

Jackson Irvine, Tom Rogic and skipper Mark Milligan were also excellent as they dominated the midfield, but there wasn't a bad player in Green and Gold as the Socceroos registered their first win of the tournament.

The only downside for Australia was a late yellow card to defender Trent Sainsbury, which will rule him out of the final group match against Syria.

After the opening game loss to Jordan, the Socceroos came out with a point to prove and dominated possession and chances from the outset.

And they got their reward inside 18 minutes, as Tom Rogic's delightful cross was diverted in by a brilliant header by Maclaren.

The Australians were buoyant now and just two minutes later they doubled their advantage.

The attack came down the left, with the impressive Ikonomidis beating one defender before floating a cross to the back post where Mabil arrived to volley past the keeper.

The Socceroos were playing some scintillating football and almost had a third before the break.

Mark Milligan's incisive pass found the feet of Maclaren in the box, with the striker laying it off to Mabil who only had to keep his shot down but fired over the bar.

There was no let-up by the Socceroos in the second half, with their movement and delivery into the penalty area causing Palestine plenty of problems.

Only the crossbar denied Australia a third when Rhyann Grant's cross deflected off a defender onto the woodwork, while Jackson Irvine was inches away from finding the net with a header.

Just as it looked like the Socceroos would have to be content with just the two goals, Giannou got his name on the scoresheet at the death.

From a corner, Ikonomidis sent in a curling cross to the far post, with Giannou breaking free from his defender to power in a header from close range.

AFC Asian Cup Finals, Group Stage, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. January 2019, 17.30			Sheikh Khalifa International Stadium, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates									10492	
Syria..2 v. Australia..3													
half time, Syria..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Ibrahim Alma					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
2	DF	Ahmad Al-Salih (c)					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
12	DF	Hussein Al-Jwayed				74	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
3	DF	Moayad Samir Ajan					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
5	DF	Omar Al-Midani					5	DF	Mark Milligan (c)				
14	MF	Tamer Haj Mohamad					8	MF	Massimo Luongo		62		90+1
8	MF	Mahmoud Al-Mawas		59			22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
20	MF	Khaled Al-Mobayed				83	23	FW	Tomas Rogic	90+3			
10	MF	Mohammed Osman				72	15	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis	54			
7	MF	Omar Maher Kharbin	43				21	FW	Awer Mabil	41			82
9	FW	Omar Jehad Al-Somah	80(pk)				9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				68
SUBSTITUTES													
21	MF	Fahd "Fadi" Youssef				72	14	FW	Apostolos Giannou				68
15	DF	Abdul Al Malek Anizan				74	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				82
18	MF	Mohamad Zaher Al-Midani				83	6	DF	Matthew Jurman				90+1
4	DF	Jehad Khair Al-Baour					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
6	DF	Amro Jenyat					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
13	DF	Nadim Ahmad Sabagh					13	MF	James Jeggo				
16	MF	Ahmad Ashkar					17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				
17	MF	Youssef Kalfa					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
19	FW	Mardig Kevork Mardigian											
22	GK	Mahmoud Al-Youssef											
23	GK	Ahmad Madania											
Team Coach		Fajr Ebrahim					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		César Arturo Ramos Palazuelos (Mexico)											
Assistant Referee 1		Miguel Angel Hernández Paredes (Mexico)											
Assistant Referee 2		Alberto Morin Méndez (Mexico)											

Youssef Kalfa is also shown as Yousef Qalfa. Mardig Kevork Mardigian is also shown as Mardik Mardikian.

match report from Football News

Syria fell to a late Tom Rogic goal as Australia advanced to the last-16 stage at the Asian Cup.

Tom Rogic smashed home a stoppage-time winner to hand Australia an undeserved 3-2 win over Syria and dump Fajer Ibrahim's men out of the Asian Cup in heart-breaking fashion.

Omar Al Soma looked to have given Syria a point, and hope of qualification, when he won and then converted an 80th-minute penalty but Rogic had the final say with a stunning left-foot drive that flashed past Ibrahim Alma with virtually the last kick of the game.

Earlier, Awer Mabil and Chris Ikonmidis twice put Australia ahead only for Omar Khrbin and Al Soma to cap a spirited Syria display with equalisers.

Rogic's late intervention meant Syria finished bottom of Group B with Australia second.

Australia looked nervous in the early stages with Syria wasting two chances to claim a surprise lead.

Al Soma headed a right-wing cross from Mohammed Osman over the bar before a weak clearance from Mat Ryan offered Khrbin an opportunity he squandered by shooting wide of the left-hand upright.

Referee Cesar Arturo Ramos then twice came to Australia's rescue, waving away Syrian penalty shouts after Al Soma tangled with Mark Milligan in the box and ruling out a goal from the striker for a foul on the Socceroos captain.

In between, Jamie Maclaren flashed a header across goal after great work from Rhyan Grant.

That opportunity was the first hint of Australia finding a foothold in the game and they continued to offer a greater attacking threat, Maclaren seeing two efforts parried by Alma before Omro Al Midani had to hack a Mabil effort off the line.

Mabil, born in a Kenyan refugee camp, continued his rise to prominence with a wonderful opener four minutes before the break, cutting in from the right and curling a left-footed shot beyond Alma.

If the Australia supporters inside the Khalifa bin Zayed Stadium thought that goal would have an adverse effect on Syria they were sorely mistaken as they levelled inside two minutes.

Mouaiad Al Ajaan delivered a pin-point cross ball from left that Khrbin powered home at the second attempt after Ryan had parried his initial header.

Australia regained the lead nine minutes into the second half - Rogic's in-swinging ball from the right flank eluding the Syria defence with Ikonmidis just managing to get enough on his finish to prevent Al Midani from completing another spectacular clearance.

There were more shouts for a penalty when Milligan, whose display will give coach Graham Arnold nightmares, allowed a routine pass to deflect off his boot on to his arm while, at the other end, Australia substitute Apostolos Giannou crashed a shot against the inside of the post.

Australia's luck finally ran out with 10 minutes to go, Ryan punching clear a Khrbin free-kick but when the ball was returned into the area, Milos Degenek fouled Al Soma and the striker coolly converted.

Syria sensed their chance and poured forward in search of a winner but were caught by the classic sucker-punch, Ikonmidis finding Rogic who lashed home superbly.

AFC Asian Cup Finals, Round of 16													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
21st. January 2019, 18.00			Sheikh Khalifa International Stadium, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates									6809	
Uzbekistan..0 v. Australia..0 (after extra time)													
half time, Uzbekistan..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Ignatij Nesterov					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
5	DF	Anzur Ismailov					4	DF	Rhyan Grant		109		
20	DF	Islom Tukhtakhujaev		2			16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich		25		
13	DF	Oleg Zoteev				105	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
6	DF	Davron Khashimov		46			2	DF	Milos Degenek				
9	MF	Odil Alimzhanovich Ahmedov (c)					5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)				
11	MF	Jaloliddin Masharipov					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
19	MF	Otabek Shukurov					23	FW	Tomas Rogic		20		111
22	MF	Javokhir Sidikov				73	15	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				96
17	MF	Dostonbek Khamdamov				107	21	FW	Awer Mabil				68
14	FW	Eldor Shomurodov				104	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				75
SUBSTITUTES													
8	MF	Ikromjon Alibaev				73	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				68
10	FW	Marat Rifkatovich Bikmaev				104	14	FW	Apostolos Giannou				75
4	DF	Farrukh Sayfiyev				105	10	FW	Robbie Kruse				96
16	MF	Azizbek Turgunboev				107	8	MF	Massimo Luongo				111
2	DF	Akmal Shorakhmedov					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
3	DF	Dostonbek Tursunov					6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
7	FW	Sardor Rashidov Ikhtiyorovich					11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				
12	GK	Sanjar Kuvvatov					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
15	DF	Egor Krimeys					13	MF	James Jeggo				
18	MF	Fozil Musaev					17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				
21	GK	Utkir Yusupov					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
23	MF	Odiljon Hamrobekov					19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
Team Coach		Héctor Cúper					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Abdulrahman Al-Jassim (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Taleb Salem Al-Marri (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Saoud Al-Maqaleh (Qatar)											
PENALTY SHOOT-OUT													
Uzbekistan..2 v. Australia..4													
19		Otabek Shukurov	X				5		Mark Milligan	X			
20		Islom Tukhtakhujaev	missed				16		Aziz Eraltay Behich	missed			
8		Ikromjon Alibaev	X				10		Robbie Kruse	X			
10		Marat Rifkatovich Bikmaev	missed				14		Apostolos Giannou	X			
							7		Mathew Leckie	X			

match report from The Guardian

Australia stumbled into the Asian Cup quarter-finals after a gritty, but unconvincing penalty shootout victory over Uzbekistan in Al-Ain.

Mat Ryan was the hero with a pair of wonderful penalty shootout saves, first down the middle and then to his right. Mathew Leckie then held his nerve to bury his penalty and send the Socceroos through to the last eight.

The Australia manager, Graham Arnold, said he had even made his players walk from the halfway line in training to best simulate an in-game scenario. He reserved special praise for Ryan: "That is why he is in the Premier League ... the two saves in the shootout showed what a top goalkeeper he is. He does a lot of homework, when he goes into a game he ticks all the boxes".

Ryan reflected on the influence of technology in preparing for penalties, saying that he had watched clips of his opponents whom he added would be naive if they did not believe he was doing so.

Amid the ecstasy of the win, the defending champions will be disappointed with a toothless performance that was a major step in the wrong direction after two promising performances against Palestine and Syria.

Poor displays were aplenty. Chris Ikonomidis, whose introduction into the side against Palestine and Syria sparked much of the improvement, was guilty of several poor touches in the final third. Awer Mabil was also unable to have the same impact working in tandem with Rhyan Grant as he had enjoyed in the group stage. The centre-backs often dwelled on the ball instead of spurring attacks and the midfielders were often

risk-averse. Tom Rogic was unable to conjure up the sort of performance he had managed against Syria. An unfortunate yellow card picked up early in the first half means that he will be unavailable for the quarter-final.

Conversely, Uzbekistan routinely threatened to take advantage of a high Australian defensive line early in the game. Eldor Shomurodov's speed had Trent Sainsbury constantly worried. However, his lung-busting efforts routinely led to poor attempts on goal from his teammates. Shomurodov himself had a glorious chance to open the scoring in the 10th minute, but his effort when through one-on-one with Ryan was brilliantly stopped by the Australian goalkeeper. The game noticeably lacked any real clear chances after this.

As the second half dragged on, Uzbekistan, coached by the notoriously defensive-minded Héctor Cúper, dropped closer and closer towards their own goal. Australia started crafting some tidy sequences, predominantly down the flank of the irrepressible Grant.

Meanwhile, the introduction of Leckie for Mabil sparked the Australians' first decent chance of the game when his pass teed up Rogic for a strike midway through the second half, and then the second as his own effort was palmed away by Ignatiy Nesterov.

As regulation time ended, the Uzbeks were fortunate to finish with 11 men as Davronbek Khashimov avoided being shown a second yellow after fouling Ikonomidis. Qatari referee Abdulrahman Al-Jassim, who grew more lenient as the game went on, allowed him to get away with just a foul.

Extra-time maintained the same meandering feeling, as the Socceroos pushed forward, but were ultimately unable to fashion anything more than half-chances. Uzbekistan ran out the game strongly with a flurry of late substitutions, but they too could not create anything meaningful going forward.

Australia's quarter-final opponents will be the hosts, the United Arab Emirates, who edged past Kyrgyzstan 3-2 thanks to a penalty in extra time. The Socceroos' task will be more difficult without Rogic, although Arnold said he had options to replace him, with a system involving "two number nines" or a "diamond midfield". Jackson Irvine, who has excelled in an attacking midfield role for Hull City, is in the reckoning to fill the gap. In the meantime, there is much work to do after another unconvincing performance as the team stay in Al-Ain to prepare for Friday's quarter-final at the Hazza bin Zayed Stadium.

AFC Asian Cup Finals, Quarter-final													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
25th. January 2019, 20.00			Hazza bin Zayed Stadium, Al Ain, Arab Emirates				United					25053	
United Arab Emirates..1 v. Australia..0													
half time, United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
17	GK	Khalid Essa Mohamed Bilal Saeed					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
6	DF	Fares Juma Hasan Juma Al-Saadi					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
3	DF	Walid Abbas Murad Yousuf Al-Balooshi		78			16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
23	DF	Mohamed Ahmad Ali Gharib Juma				18	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
19	DF	Mohamed Ismail Ahmed Ismail					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
15	MF	Ismaeel Salem Ismaeel Saeed Al-Hamadi		61		88	5	DF	Mark Milligan (c)				
8	MF	Majed Hassan Ahmad Abdulla Al-Ahmadi					22	MF	Jackson Irvine		90+7		
9	MF	Bandar Mohammed Mohammed Saeed Mahdi					15	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				
2	MF	Ali Hassan Salmeen Al-Balushi					10	FW	Robbie Kruse		44		73
10	FW	Ismaeil Matar Ibrahim Khamis Al-Mekhaini Al-Junaibi				52	14	FW	Apostolos Giannou				80
7	FW	Ali Ahmed Mabkhout Mohsen Omran Al-Hajeri	68				9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				60
SUBSTITUTES													
12	DF	Khalifa Alhammadi				18	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				60
16	MF	Mohamed Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Raqi Al-Almoudi				52	8	MF	Massimo Luongo				
20	FW	Saif Rashid Nasir				88	6	DF	Matthew Jurman				
1	GK	Ali Khaseif Humad Khaseif Housani					3	DF	Alexander Gersbach				
5	MF	Amer Abdulrahman Abdullah Hussein Al-Hammadi					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
11	FW	Ahmed Khalil Sebait Mubarak Al-Junaibi					13	MF	James Jeggo				
14	MF	Mohamed Khalfan Ali					17	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				
18	DF	Alhasan Saleh Easa Qutaif Al-Hennawi					18	GK	Daniel "Danny" Vukovic				
21	MF	Khalfan Mubarak Al-Shamsi					21	FW	Awer Mabil				73
22	GK	Mohamed Al-Shamsi					11	FW	Andrew Nabbout				80
							19	DF	Joshua Risdon				
Team Coach		Alberto Zaccheroni					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Ryuji Sato (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yaser Khalil Ebrahim Abdulla Tulefat (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Jun Mihara (Japan)											

match report from The Guardian

Australia's Asian Cup dreams were crushed at the Hazza bin Zayed stadium, as a resolute United Arab Emirates condemned the Socceroos to a 1-0 defeat in Al Ain.

Milos Degenek's under-hit back-pass was the unfortunate deciding moment in the game, with Ali Mabkhout latching onto it before rounding Mat Ryan and finishing into an empty net. Degenek's error proved decisive, but it seems unfair to focus on one player in such an abject team performance.

Socceroos manager Graham Arnold chose to reflect on how Degenek has grown after going from World Cup squad player into a starter who he believes "will have a long future with the Australian national team".

Degenek was less philosophical, he told Fox Sports Australia: "We didn't go through because of me. I let the team down, the boys down, the country down. It's a shit situation. It's fucked."

This match felt like a return to the scene of the crime. It occurred in the same stadium as the group stage lost to Jordan. It was a strangely anti-climactic ending to a strange Asian Cup campaign, plagued by an attack unable to put organised defences under sustained pressure.

Socceroos manager Graham Arnold had spoken about this tournament being part of a 'four-year plan', but that will do little to curb the imminent criticism of a campaign that will be deservedly condemned as a failure.

"This is the fifth game in a row we controlled," Arnold said. "It's football. It can be a cruel sport. It is the only sport in the world that you can control possession, have more chances, spend more time in opposition half, and still lose."

A helter-skelter opening phase which promised an exciting match eventually turned into a slow, tactical affair. Ismail Alhammadi's should have put the hosts ahead after breezing by Trent Sainsbury in the very first minute, but Mat Ryan stood tall to parry away a shot directed at his chest. Sainsbury had his own glorious chance to open the scoring moments later, but his free header ballooned over the crossbar and into orbit.

The Emiratis reverted to the defensive style previously utilised by Uzbekistan and Jordan to nullify Australia's attacking threat, while the Socceroos once again struggled to combat it despite maintain the lion's share of possession. Australia, lacking the creativity of the suspended Tom Rogic, struggled to move the ball through central midfield. Slow and safe was the order of the day, with passes moving from one side of defence to the other as the UAE organised itself behind the ball.

"[I'm] not using excuses because the boys did fantastic, but we missed [Daniel] Arzani and [Martin] Boyle playing against teams with packed defences," Arnold explained.

Attacking from set-pieces quickly became both teams' main threat. Ali Mabkhout will wonder how he skied an open header in first-half stoppage time, while Australia created a vast percentage of their own chances through the exquisite corner delivery of Chris Ikonomidis. His team-mates were unable to reward him with the assist he deserved.

Mabkhout's opportunistic goal in the 68th minute did little to change the complexion of the game but highlighted that even in attacking desperation, throwing waves of players forward, the Australians were still unable to craft any meaningful attempts on goal. Mathew Leckie and Awer Mabil were introduced into the game with the Socceroos craving a spark, but they too struggled to find openings.

The loud, intimidating atmosphere inside the stadium seemed to deflate Australia in the latter stages against the tournament hosts. A few long-range misses were met with roars of joy as the UAE ran down the clock to set up a semi-final against Qatar, who shocked South Korea in Friday's quarter-final.

Reflecting on the tournament, in keeping with his four-year plan rhetoric, Arnold described the journey as "a valuable experience" for a young Socceroos squad.

The Socceroos players will now return to their clubs, while Arnold will be left to conduct a post-mortem on his team and especially the one-dimensional way his side performed going forward. Fans will feel underwhelmed by a set of underwhelming performances by a team that never hit full stride.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
7th. June 2019, 21.00			Busan Asiad Main Stadium, Busan, Korea Republic				Clear			20C		52213	
Korea Republic..1 v. Australia..0													
half time, Korea Republic..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Kim Seung-Gyu					1	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
19	DF	Kim Young-Gwon					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
20	DF	Kwon Kyung-Won					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
4	DF	Kim Min-Jae					6	DF	Matthew Jurman				77*
6	MF	Hwang In-Beom					16	DF	Aziz Behich (c)				77
8	MF	Ju Se-Jong					17	MF	Mustafa Amini		60		
10	FW	Lee Jae-Sung				73	13	MF	James Jeggo				
3	MF	Kim Jin-Su				73*	23	MF	Brandon O'Neill				84
23	MF	Kim Moon-Hwan		71			21	FW	Awer Mabil				70
11	FW	Hwang Hee-Chan				67	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				62
7	FW	Son Heung-Min (c)					11	FW	Craig Goodwin				73
SUBSTITUTES													
5	DF	Park Ji-Su					9	FW	Adam Taggart				62
13	MF	Kim Bo-Kyung					20	MF	Brandon Borello		90+1		70
14	DF	Hong Chul				73*	10	MF	Ryan Williams				73
15	DF	Kim Tae-Hwan					14	DF	Bradley "Brad" Smith				77
16	FW	Hwang Ui-Jo	76			67	2	DF	Matthew Spiranovic				77*
17	MF	Na Sang-Ho				73	7	MF	Dimitrios Petratos				84
2	DF	Lee Yong					24	DF	Harry Souttar				
21	GK	Jo Hyeon-Woo					3	DF	Thomas Deng				
12	GK	Gu Sung-Yun					22	MF	Joshua Brillante				
9	FW	Lee Jeong-Hyeop					18	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
18	MF	Lee Seung-Woo					5	DF	Rhys Williams				
22	MF	Lee Jin-Hyun					19	MF	Terry Antonis				
Team Coach		Paulo Bento					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Minoru Tojo (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Hiroshi Yamauchi (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Isao Nishihashi											

Park Ji-Su is also shown as Park Ji-Soo.

match report from EPSN

An inexperienced Australia were beaten 1-0 by South Korea despite dominating large periods of their friendly international in Busan.

Australia were unbeaten in five of their past six games against South Korea heading into the contest and arguably deserved to extend that sequence in front of 55,000 partisan fans.

The Socceroos started the stronger with striker Mitchell Duke, playing his first international since 2013, going close to opening the scoring in the 10th minute.

Awer Mabil then volleyed across the face of goal before debutant Brandon O'Neill's corner found Duke, whose goal-bound header deflected off the right hand post.

Midfielder O'Neill and fellow Sydney FC A-League premiership winner Andrew Redmayne both made encouraging debuts for the Socceroos, while Brandon Borello and Ryan Williams also earned their first caps as substitutes.

Goalkeeper Redmayne made two strong saves inside the opening 20 minutes and Bailey Wright also had an impressive outing in coach Graham Arnold's back four.

South Korea gained momentum in the second half and, after having a penalty appeal waved away in the 52nd minute, the hosts persevered to put Redmayne under more pressure.

Hwang Ui-Jo broke the deadlock in the 76th minute when he connected with a Hong Chul cross and beat Redmayne from close range.

Redmayne did prevent Tottenham star Son Heung-Min from doubling the lead with stellar save eight minutes from time.

Adam Taggart, playing his first international for five years, came off the bench in search of an equaliser but could not find the target to leave the Socceroos with just six goals from six games since their group-stage exit at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

match report from FFA

Hwang Ui-jo scored the only goal of the game as the Caltex Socceroos went down 1-0 to Korea Republic in Friday evening's international friendly.

Australia created several good opportunities against the Taeguk Warriors in Busan - and hit the post early on through Mitch Duke - but fell behind when substitutes Hong Chul and Hwang combined to give Korea Republic the lead late in the second half.

Duke - leading the line in his first appearance for the Caltex Socceroos since September 2013 - came within centimetres of capitalising on an enterprising start from Graham Arnold's side with a glancing header from Brandon O'Neill's corner which bounced off the foot of the post.

The Western Sydney Wanderers forward had earlier flashed a warning shot wide, while FC Midtjylland attacker Awer Mabil stung the palms of Korea Republic 'keeper Kim Seung-gyu after volleying Craig Goodwin's

clipped pass across goal at the back post.

Vissel Kobe custodian Seung-gyu was by far busier than opposite number Andrew Redmayne, with the debutant custodian not facing a single shot from Paulo Bento's Korea Republic until he was made to collect a deflected free-kick from Tottenham Hotspur attacker Son Heung-min on the hour mark.

However, Hwang - who scored in November's 1-1 draw with Australia in Brisbane - made himself the 75th minute match-winner in Busan by latching onto Hong's cross at the near post.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
10th. September 2019, 18.30			Al Kuwait Sports Club, Kuwait City, Kuwait								11852		
Kuwait..0 v. Australia..3													
half time, Kuwait..0 v. Australia..3													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Sulaiman Abdulghafour					1	GK	Mathew Ryan				
5	DF	Fahad Al-Hajeri					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
12	MF	Hamad Al-Harbi					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
13	DF	Fahad Hammoud Al-Rashidi					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
18	DF	Amer Maatouq Al-Fadhel					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
3	MF	Ahmed Al-Dhefiri					22	MF	Mohammad Mustafa Castillo Amini				82
6	MF	Sultan Al-Enezi		84			13	MF	Aaron Mooy	38			
8	MF	Abdullah Mawi		11		46	6	MF	James Jeggo		82		
10	MF	Faisal Zayed Al-Harbi					7	FW	Mathew Leckie (c)	7, 30			69
15	MF	Shereedah Al-Shereedah				46*	10	FW	Adam Taggart		44		68
19	FW	Husain Al-Mosawi (c)				77	14	FW	Brandon Borrello				
SUBSTITUTES													
20	FW	Yousef Nasser Al-Salman				46	17	MF	Jackson Irvine				82
17	FW	Bader Ahmed Al-Mutawa				46*	21	FW	Awer Mabil				69
9	FW	Faisal Saad Ajab Al-Azemi				77	15	FW	Apostolos Giannou				68
2	DF	Dhari Said Abdullah					18	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
1	GK	Hameed Youssuf Al-Qallaf					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
11	MF	Fahad Al-Ebrahim Al-Ansari					8	MF	Massimo Luongo				
23	GK	Hussain Kankone					11	FW	Craig Goodwin				
14	MF	Redha Hani Abu Jabarah					3	DF	Bradley "Brad" Smith				
21	MF	Ali Ahmad Khalaf					5	DF	Thomas Deng				
16	FW	Mubarak Al-Faneni					23	DF	Harry Souttar				
7	MF	Eid Naser Al-Rashedi					9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
4	MF	Khaled Mohamed Ibrahim Hajiah					19	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				
Team Coach		Romeo Jozak					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Muhammad Taqi Aljaafari Bin Jahari (Singapore)											
Assistant Referee 1		Ronnie Koh Min Kiat (Singapore)											
Assistant Referee 2		Abdul Hannan Bin Abdul Hasim (Singapore)											

match report from AFC

Australia opened their Asian Qualifiers Group B campaign for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 with an emphatic 3-0 win over Kuwait at the Kuwait Sports Club Stadium on Tuesday.

Kuwait came into the game on a high following their 7-0 humbling of Nepal at the same ground five days earlier, but Romeo Jozak's men were brought back down to earth quickly as the visitors got off to a flying start.

Seven minutes were all that Australia needed to move in front through Mathew Leckie. The Kuwaiti defence failed to deal with an Aaron Mooy in-swinging corner and Jackson Irvine fumbled his shot on the rebound, but the ball found its way to Leckie who stabbed it home from inside the six-yard box.

Skipper Leckie doubled the Socceroos' lead just before the half-hour mark in an identical manner. Another Mooy corner kick was headed by Irvine and again Leckie was perfectly positioned to sweep home from point-blank.

Mooy heaped more misery on Romeo Jozak's side, adding a third Australian goal in the 37th minute. Kuwaiti goalkeeper Sulaiman Abdulghafour spilled the ball as he attempted to catch Rhyan Grant's cross, and it fell to Adam Taggart who set up Mooy at the edge of the box and the Brighton midfielder placed his shot into the top corner to make it 3-0.

Content with their lead, Australia retreated after the restart, dominating possession, but posing little threat on Abdulghafour's goal.

The hosts had a golden chance to reduce the margin after Trent Sainsbury miscued his attempt to clear a long ball and the ball ended up falling to Yousef Nasser, who struck on the half-volley, but goalkeeper Matthew Ryan showed great flexibility, making a flying save at the hour mark.

The result means Australia join Jordan, Kuwait and Nepal on three points each.

The Socceroos host Nepal on October 10th, while Kuwait travel to Jordan.

match report from FFA

The Caltex Socceroos have made the perfect start on the road to Qatar with a 3-0 win over Kuwait in Australia's first FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifier.

A brace from Mat Leckie, who was captain in the absence of injured skipper Mark Milligan, and a stunning strike from Aaron Mooy secured a dominant win and Australia's first three points in Group B during the second phase of AFC qualifying.

It took less than seven minutes for Australia to take the lead over Kuwait after Leckie turned in Jackson Irvine's first-time volley, which fell to the midfielder after Mooy's corner was headed away.

Then, on the half hour mark, Leckie and Irvine combined to double the Caltex Socceroos' lead when the Hull City midfielder rose near the edge of the box and powerfully headed a Mooy corner towards goal.

Leckie was alert to swivel and turn the ball into the goal from point-blank range to score his first brace for Australia since June 2018.

Less than 10 minutes later, a superb strike from Mooy ensured that the Caltex Socceroos went into the break with a three-goal buffer with the Brighton midfielder burying his first international goal in three-and-a-half years.

The 28-year-old curled a first-time shot into the top corner of the goal after Adam Taggart brought down a punched clearance from Kuwait's goalkeeper and laid the ball off for Mooy to launch his attempt from the edge of the box.

Australia's defence and goalkeeper Mat Ryan were largely untroubled throughout the match until the shot-stopper was called into action twice in quick succession near the hour mark.

First, the Brighton gloveman was forced to dive to his left and palm away a first-time Yousef Naser shot that was headed for the top corner.

Then, minutes later, Naser tested Ryan for a second time when the 27-year-old launched himself to his left to make a low save from the Kuwait attacker's first-time attempt.

Three early goals saw Australia assert their control over the match, but they could have lead by even more at half-time.

In the 16th minute, Taggart came close to doubling the Caltex Socceroos lead when the striker was played into Kuwait's box and was afforded space to move towards goal and shoot. However, his left-footed shot was along the ground and didn't trouble the goalkeeper.

Taggart had another opportunity on the 25-minute mark when he rose to bring down Mooy's cross in the box before reacting to a ricochet. However, his attempt was straight at the goalkeeper.

Irvine also had early opportunities to get on the scoresheet. A neat passing play in the 19th minute saw Brandon Borrello set him up in the box, but he scooped the ball over the bar after his spin and shot.

Irvine very nearly scored Australia's third goal in the 35th minute, but he was unable to direct his first-time left-footed shot on target following a smart cut-back from Aziz Behich.

Mooy - who created the most chances of any player on the field (four) - came close to burying his second goal of the game in the 53rd minute, but his second-half free kick from outside the box went too far to the left of the post.

Awer Mabil almost made an immediate impact after entering the game just before the 70th minute. However, his attempt hit the side-netting after he was played into the box by Mooy.

In the last minute, Mabil very nearly made it four goals for the Caltex Socceroos when a pinpoint ball from Mooy put the winger in on goal, but he was unable to lift the ball over the Kuwait goalkeeper and the game ended 3-0.

Australia's next match is against Nepal in Canberra at GIO Stadium on Thursday, October 10.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
10th. October 2019, 20.00			GIO Stadium, Canberra, ACT				Clear					18563	
Australia..5 v. Nepal..0													
half time, Australia..3 v. Nepal..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan					16	GK	Kiran Chemzong				
4	DF	Rhyan Grant					2	DF	Dinesh Rajbansi	59(og)			
16	DF	Aziz Behich					4	DF	Ananta Tamang				
20	DF	Bailey Wright					19	DF	Devendra Tamang				
23	DF	Harry Souttar	23				21	DF	Rajeen Dhimai		83		
5	MF	Mark Milligan (c)					23	DF	Rohit Chand				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy				62	8	MF	Bishal Rai				86
22	MF	Jackson Irvine					14	FW	Anjan Bista				79
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				77	15	MF	Sujal Shrestha				
9	FW	Jamie Maclaren	6, 19, 90				22	MF	Ravi Paswan				
11	FW	Craig Goodwin				71	7	FW	Abishek Rijal				66
SUBSTITUTES													
12	GK	Mitchell Langerak					1	GK	Bikesh Kuthu				
18	GK	Andrew Redmayne					20	GK	Bishal Shrestha				
2	DF	Milos Degenek					3	DF	Ajit Bhandari				
3	DF	Bradley "Brad" Smith					5	DF	Saroj Dahal				
6	MF	James Jeggo					6	DF	Suman Aryal				
14	MF	Brandon Borrello					9	MF	Sunil Bal				
17	MF	Mustafa Amini					11	MF	Heman Gurung				
19	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				71	12	MF	Bikram Lama				
21	MF	Awer Mabil				77	13	MF	Tej Tamang				79
8	FW	Dimitrios Petratos					17	MF	Santosh Tamang				86
10	FW	Adam Taggart					10	FW	Bimal Magar				66
15	FW	Apostolos Giannou				62	18	FW	Nawayuq Shrestha				
Team Coach		Graham Arnold					Team Coach		Johan Kalin				
Team Manager							Team Manager		Bal Gopal Maharjan				
Referee		Thoriq Munir Alkatiri (Indonesia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Nurhadi Nurhadi (Indonesia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Bangbang Syamsudar (Indonesia)											

The FFA has the Australian fourth goal being scored by Harry Souttar.

match report from Fox Sports

Australia striker Jamie Maclaren scored a hat-trick in a 5-0 thrashing of a struggling Nepal during Thursday's World Cup qualifier in Canberra.

The 161st-ranked visitors struggled to break through a disciplined Socceroos defence and were visibly flagging by half-time, with a dogged showing by keeper Kiran Chemjong avoiding a bigger blowout.

"We created a lot of chances, but we got a bit more ruthless when it counts," said Australia coach Graham Arnold after his side's biggest home win in three years.

"Overall, I'm very happy." Melbourne City's Maclaren opened scoring in the sixth minute when Chemjong lost his grip on a drive from the top of the box.

He doubled the lead in the 18th minute with a header off Rhyan Grant's cross before debutant Harry Souttar followed five minutes later with his own nod into goal. However a potential fourth by Mathew Leckie seconds before the break was controversially flagged offside.

By then the Aussies had had 16 shots on goal against a solitary attempt by the visitors - a 44th minute Hail Mary from Abhishek Rijal from near the halfway line.

The visitors rallied in the second half but conceded an own goal after deflecting in another towering Souttar header on the hour mark.

Late substitutes Ajdin Hrustic and Awer Mabil kept up the pressure but could not capitalise on their attempts before Maclaren grabbed his third in the closing moments.

"(It's) my proudest moment in a football jersey," he told Fox Sports after the match, while conceding that his side squandered a few easy opportunities through the match.

"End of the day we scored five... but looking back we could've scored more," he said.

match report from FFA

Jamie Maclaren's hat-trick and a debut double by Harry Souttar earned the Caltex Socceroos a dominant 5-0 FIFA World Cup qualifying win over Nepal.

Maclaren hit a quick-fire double inside 20 minutes to put Australia in the ascendancy as Graham Arnold's side controlled possession and territory in the first international played in Canberra in four years.

The towering Souttar threatened from set pieces throughout and the Scotland-born 20-year-old glanced in a third goal on 23 minutes as Australia's quality shone through.

Souttar scored again from close range with the help of a huge deflection on 59 minutes and Maclaren's late strike completed the rout against the team ranked 161 in the world, 117 places behind behind the Caltex Socceroos.

The victory in Australia's only home match of 2019 makes it a perfect six points from two games in Group B, with Graham Arnold's side facing a trip to play Chinese Taipei on Tuesday, October 15.

Arnold made five changes from the 3-0 win in Kuwait, fielding a brand new centre-half partnership with Souttar earning his first senior cap, becoming Caltex Socceroo number 606, alongside fellow England-based defender Bailey Wright.

Maclaren led the line in relief of Adam Taggart, Craig Goodwin started in place of Brandon Borrello and Mark Milligan returned to international action for the first since the AFC Asian Cup 2019 to lead the Caltex Socceroos out at GIO Stadium.

James Jeggo and Milos Degenek took their places on the bench, with Trent Sainsbury left out of the squad to work on his fitness levels, but Australia showed no lack of cohesion from the off.

Head coach Johan Kalin's team were pinned deep in their own territory in the opening stages and Jackson Irvine was denied a fifth-minute opener when his effort cannoned back off goalkeeper Kiran Chemjong during a goal-mouth scramble.

A minute later, the floodgates opened as Aaron Mooy rolled a free-kick to Goodwin and his rifled shot ricocheted back to Maclaren to tap in the rebound from inside the six-yard box.

The Melbourne City hitman almost doubled his tally in the 10th minute but could not react quickly enough to direct his header on target after Chemjong palmed away Irvine's header from Goodwin's free-kick.

With the Caltex Socceroos full-backs camped in the Nepal half, Maclaren's second arrived on 19 minutes. Aziz Behich's floated cross was headed back across goal by Rhyan Grant and the 26-year-old was left to nod in his third international goal.

Australia continued to dominate as Mooy's strike deflected wide and, from the resulting corner, the 6' 6" frame of Souttar towered above the visiting defence to power in a debut goal from Goodwin's delivery.

Milligan almost got in on the act with a stinging drive on 33 minutes, which was held at the second-attempt by Chemjong, before Mooy took aim once again but saw his shot whistle the wrong side of the Nepalese post.

The Himalayans registered their first attempt on 44 minutes, before Matthew Leckie found the net with a thunderous 25-yard effort. However, the goal was ruled out with Maclaren in an offside position as Australia took a 3-0 lead into the interval having recorded 16 first-half shots.

Irvine slammed a shot over the Nepal crossbar from distance on 47 minutes as Australia picked up where they left off before the break.

A vocal away support made themselves heard when Nepal earned their first corner on 51 minutes, but the Caltex Socceroos were soon back on the offensive when Goodwin's close-range header from Mooy's pin-point cross was pushed away by Chemjong.

Maclaren was denied a hat-trick by Chemjong's out-stretched foot after Leckie drilled a low delivery across goal, and Souttar was on the mark again from the resulting corner.

This time his flicked header seemed to be heading straight at the gloveman Chemjong but the ball nestled in the corner after glancing off the jersey of a Nepalese defender.

Arnold sent on Apostolos Giannou for Mooy as Australia went with two up front, and Ajdin Hrustic and Awer Mabil were introduced to freshen up the home side's attack.

The Caltex Socceroos went in search of a fifth but Goodwin but hammered an effort wide on 67 minutes and Mabil's shooting radar proved to be off on 80 minutes.

Souttar saw a golden chance for a treble pass him by when his header flashed wide of the post but Maclaren made no mistake after collecting Irvine's impressive chest pass and firing past Chemjong in stoppage time to wrap up Australia's biggest home win since 2016.

Arnold and his team face a short turnaround before flying out to Chinese Taipei ahead of their third match in Group B, which is played at Kaohsiung Stadium on Tuesday, 15 October.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
15th. October 2019, 22.40			National Stadium, Kaohsiung, Taiwan				Clear			22C		3251	
Chinese Taipei..1 v. Australia..7													
half time, Chinese Taipei..1 v. Australia..4													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Pan Wen-Chieh					1	GK	Mathew Ryan (c)				
2	DF	Wang Ruei					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
3	DF	Chen Ting-Yang					3	DF	Bradley "Brad" Smith				
6	DF	Chen Wei-Chuan					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
4	MF	Hung Tzu-Kuei					23	DF	Harry Souttar	73, 88			
12	MF	Wen Chih-Hao				70	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				62
15	MF	Chen Yi-Wei	21				6	MF	James Jeggo				
17	MF	Chen Po-liang				61	22	MF	Jackson Irvine	34, 36			
21	MF	Emilio Estevez Tsai				68	21	MF	Awer Mabil				
10	FW	Chen Hao-Wei					10	FW	Adam Taggart	12, 19			79
20	FW	Onur Dogan					14	MF	Brandon Borrello		30		69
SUBSTITUTES													
8	MF	Wu Yen-Shu				61	17	MF	Mustafa Amini				62
7	MF	William "Will" Donkin				68	19	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				69
19	FW	Lee Hsiang-Wei				70	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren	84			79
14	MF	Chen Chao-An					5	MF	Mark Milligan				
22	FW	Chen Jui-Chieh					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
5	MF	Cheng Hao					8	FW	Dimitrios Petratos				
18	GK	Huang Chiu-Lin					11	FW	Craig Goodwin				
9	FW	Li Mao					12	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
13	MF	Lin Chang-Lun					15	FW	Apostolos Giannou				
23	GK	Tuan Hsuan					18	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
11	MF	Wu Chun-Ching					20	DF	Bailey Wright				
16	FW	Yu Chia-Huang					16	DF	Aziz Behich				
Team Coach		Louis Lancaster					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Mongkolchai Pechsri (Thailand)											
Assistant Referee 1		Apichit Nophuan (Thailand)											
Assistant Referee 2		Pattarapong Kijathit (Thailand)											

Onur Dogan is also known as Chu En-Le.

match report from ESPN and ABC by AAP

Australia have continued their perfect start to World Cup qualifying with a 7-1 hammering of a spirited Chinese Taipei side in Kaohsiung.

Adam Taggart and Jackson Irvine and Harry Souttar each scored twice with Jamie Maclaren also finding the net with his fourth goal in a week for the national team.

The win keeps Australia comfortably on top of Group B with three victories in as many matches ahead of November's clash with Jordan in Amman.

Graham Arnold made six changes to the team that defeated Nepal 5-0 in Canberra last week, with Taggart given the nod ahead of hat trick hero Maclaren.

The Suwon Bluewings striker repaid Arnold's faith with a first-half double -- just as he did the last time Australia played Chinese Taipei back in 2012.

Taggart opened the scoring after 12 minutes with a diving header from a Rhyan Grant cross for his first international goal in six years.

Two more of those given a start -- Awer Mabil and Brad Smith -- then combined well on the left with a slick one-two before Taggart tapped home a Smith cross in the 19th-minute.

Rather than roll over, Chinese Taipei showed their skill with a fine goal two minutes later when Chen Yi-Wei ghosted between central defenders Milos Degenek and Souttar to send a bullet header past Mat Ryan.

It was the first goal conceded in the qualifying campaign by the Australian goalkeeper who was captaining his nation for the first time in his 58th appearance.

Australia restored their two-goal advantage in the 33rd minute when a great crossfield ball by Aaron Mooy found Grant in space and his right-wing centre was smashed home by Irvine.

The Hull City midfielder added his second three minutes later when he headed home a teasing Mabil cross in the 36th minute, ensuring Australia went in at halftime with a healthy 4-1 lead.

Irvine had a chance to claim a hat-trick after the restart following more good work by Smith and Mabil, but blazed over the bar from inside the box.

Arnold's decision to replace the ineffective Brandon Borello with Ajdin Hrustic proved the source of a late flurry by the Socceroos.

Hrustic twice found the head of Souttar -- who now has three goals from his first two Socceroos appearances -- and he also set up Maclaren's second-half strike as Australia delivered the ruthless edge Arnold has been demanding all campaign.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, Preliminary Round 2, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
14th. November 2019, 18.00			King Abdullah II Stadium, Amman, Jordan			Clear			21C		9712		
Jordan..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, Jordan..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Amer Shafi Mahmoud Sabbah (c)					1	GK	Mathew Ryan (c)				
21	DF	Mohammad Abdul-Samee'				80	4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
3	DF	Tareq Ziad Jbr Khattab					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
23	DF	Ihsan Nabil Farhan Haddad					3	DF	Bradley "Brad" Smith				
5	DF	Yazan Abo Al-Arab					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
4	MF	Baha'a Abdul-Rahman Suleiman					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
11	MF	Yaseen Anas Al-Bakhit					6	MF	James Jeggo		43		
10	MF	Ahmed Samir Saleh				46	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
8	MF	Nour Al-Rawabdeh					23	FW	Tomas Rogić				
14	MF	Ahmad Ersan Mohammad Hamdouni					21	MF	Awer Mabil				74
9	FW	Baha' Faisal Mohammad Seif				62	10	FW	Adam Taggart	13			70
SUBSTITUTES													
18	MF	Musa Suliman Al-Taamari				46	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				70
20	FW	Hamza Ali Khaled Al-Dardour				62	9	FW	Martin Boyle				
17	DF	Salem Al Ajalin				80	7	FW	Craig Goodwin				
12	GK	Ahmed Abdel-Sattar Nawwas					14	MF	Brandon Borrello				
19	DF	Anas Walid Khaled Bani Yaseen					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
15	DF	Bara' Sami Mousa Marie					18	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
2	DF	Feras Zeyad Yousef Shelbaieh					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
13	MF	Khalil Zaid Bani Attiah					19	DF	Harry Souttar				
16	MF	Mohammad Bani Attiah					12	GK	Adam Federici				
6	MF	Saeed Mohammad Saeed Hasan Murjan					17	DF	Joshua Risdon				
22	GK	Yazeed Moien Hasan Abu laila					5	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
7	FW	Yousef Ahmad Mohammad Al-Rawashdeh					19	MF	Ajdin Hrustic				
Team Coach		Vital Borkelmans					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Fu Ming (People's Republic of China)											
Assistant Referee 1		Huo Weiming (People's Republic of China)											
Assistant Referee 2		Wang Dexin (People's Republic of China)											

Tareq Ziad Jabr Khattab is also shown as Tareq Zeyad. Anas Walid Khaled Bani Yaseen is also shown as Anas Basi Yassen. Ihsan Nabil Farhan Haddad is also shown as Ehdan Haddad. Nour Al-Rawabdeh is also shown as Noor Al Rawabdeh. Ahmad Ersan Mohammad Hamdouni is also shown as Ahmad Al-Ersan. Musa Suliman Al-Taamari is also shown as Moussa Al Tamari. Yazan Abu Arab is also shown as Yazan Abo Al-Arab and Yazan Alarab.

match report from AFC

Australia took a major step towards the next round of the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023, moving five points clear the top of Group B with 1-0 win over Jordan on Thursday.

Adam Taggart's early lob helped the Socceroos exorcise the demons of previous failures in the Jordanian capital, but they had to withstand a second-half rally from a Mousa Suleiman Al Tamari-inspired Al Nashama. Jordan's defeat coupled with Kuwait's big win over Chinese Taipei, sees Vial Borkelman's side drop to third on goal difference with seven points, while Australia lead the race with a perfect 12 from their opening four matches.

Amman hadn't previously been a happy travel destination for Australia, who had lost there in 2012 and 2015, but they looked perfectly at home in the opening stages with Taggart taking only 13 minutes to put them ahead.

Leading the line in place of the absent Jamie Maclaren, Taggart made sure he left an impression at King Abdullah II Stadium, delicately lifting the ball over advancing Jordanian goalkeeper Amer Shafi and into the net after being supplied by a wonderful Jackson Irvine pass.

Irvine was involved in the action again when his half-volley at goal flew over the crossbar from six yards following a corner kick, with winger Awer Mabil firing wide from a tight angle not long after as Australia missed opportunities to extend their lead before the interval.

Borkelmans introduced the talented Al Tamari at half-time, and the 22-year-old made a difference almost immediately, snaking his way past two defenders before flashing an effort across goal just four minutes after his arrival.

Al Tamari's presence lifted Jordan. Yaseen Bakheet – arguably their best in the opening 45 minutes – forced Mat Ryan into an important near post save, before Al Tamari's excellent cross found an unmarked Tareq Khattab, with the towering defender disappointed to miss the target in the 66th minute.

Graham Arnold introduced Mitchell Duke and Martin Boyle as Australia tried to regain a sense of control, but Jordan continued to knock on the door, with Ryan called into action to deny Hamza Al Dardour's header. Ryan was a key figure for Australia, particularly in the latter stages, when he stood firm to deny Bakheet once again in the 90th minute, although the Jordanian midfielder would have been disappointed his effort after another Al Tamari-designed opportunity came and went.

But, while Jordan produced a much-improved second half performance, the equaliser they craved never materialised, leaving them little room for error in their four remaining matches, while Australia emerged from the toughest challenge of their campaign so far with maximum points.

match report from FFA

Adam Taggart's sixth Caltex Socceroos goal has given Australia a historic 1-0 away win over Jordan to extend their lead to five points at the top of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualifying Group B.

The 26-year-old striker sparked his country's first-ever away victory over Jordan when he opened the scoring with a superb first-time finish following a well-weighted through ball from Jackson Irvine in the 13th minute.

Australia dominated proceedings in the first half before Jordan worked their way back into the match in the second half.

However, the Caltex Socceroos held out for a historic 1-0 win to maintain their perfect record of four wins and 12 points in the second phase of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualifying.

After a cagey opening 13 minutes, Taggart gave Australia the lead with a composed first-time, left-footed finish over Jordan's onrushing goalkeeper.

The Suwon Bluewings striker was played in behind Jordan's defence by Irvine's superbly weighted pass before he dinked the ball over Amer Shafi to notch his third goal in three FIFA World Cup qualifying games.

Jordan looked to hit back immediately, but Baha Abdel-Rahman's free kick from 30 yards sailed way over the bar.

Australia were next to fire a free kick towards goal in the 24th minute, but Aaron Mooy's shot from 25 yards didn't trouble the goalkeeper.

Irvine almost had a goal of his own in the 30th minute when Milos Degenek headed on Mooy's corner to the back-post, but the Hull City midfielder flashed his first-time shot over the bar.

Awer Mabil came close to doubling Australia's lead minutes later when he met Brad Smith's low, whipped ball at the back-post, but the winger's close-range shot from a tight angle hit the side netting of the goal.

Smith found Mabil again with a cross in the 42nd minute before the attacker's shot rebounded to Mooy at the top of the box, whose first-time attempt was deflected out of play.

Jordan had the first chance of the second half when Mousa Suleiman flashed a left-footed shot across the face of Mat Ryan's goal from inside right side of the box.

Ryan was forced into a smart stop in the 60th minute when Yaseen Al Bakhit shot from close-range, but the Australian goalkeeper reacted quickly to palm the ball out.

Suleiman came close to firing on target from the resulting corner, but his left-footed strike across the face of the goal went wide of the target. Minutes later, Baha Seif also had an attempt, but his shot was off target.

In the 66th minute, Suleiman found Tareq Khattab with a cross at the back-post, but he failed to convert his header.

Mitch Duke came on to replace Taggart in the 70th minute before Martin Boyle made his long-awaited return from injury when he was substituted on for Awer Mabil in the 73rd minute.

Boyle looked to make an immediate impact, skipping past a few players before setting up Mooy, whose shot was deflected out for a corner.

Boyle was lively to win a free kick in the 77th minute, before Tom Rogic, who was playing his first Caltex Socceroos game in nine months, fired it over the bar.

Ryan made a superb low save down to his left minutes later when he reacted quickly to push the ball wide following Hamza Al-Dardour's header from point-blank range. However, Al-Dardour was flagged for offside.

The Caltex Socceroos shotstopper was forced to make two late saves in the final minutes, but he was able to deny Ahmad Ersan and Yaseen Al Bakhit.

Australia held on for a 1-0 win – their first away victory over Jordan – with their next match against Kuwait at home in March.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Christine (my wife, who despite her health problems but getting better, continues to support my excursions to the NSW State Library)

In this decade I didn't have to approach anyone for assistance except the agencies as listed in the match reports.